



NOW THEN.

A MAGAZINE FOR SHEFFIELD. VALGEIR SIGURÐSSON. HEROIN. LUKE DROZD. ISSUE 12. FREE.



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NOW THEN
AN OPUS CREATION

NOW THEN.

ISSUE 12.

MARCH 2009.

PAGE 2.

PAGE 5.

PAGE 9.

PAGE 10.

PAGE 17.

PAGE 19.

PAGE 23.

PAGE 33.

PAGE 38.

PAGE 41.

EDITORIAL.

THIS MONTH.

LOCALCHECK.

LOCAL CHECK.

MIXED/REMIXED.

SHEFFIELD'S MUSICAL FOOTPRINT.

HEROIN.

SMACKS OF THE TRUTH.

WORDLIFE.

POETICS.

WHAT I WORE TODAY.

NEW FASHION TREND SWEEPING THE NET.

LUKE DROZD.

WE SPEAK TO THIS MONTH'S ARTIST.

SOUNDCHECK.

WHAT WE LIKE IN MUSIC THIS MONTH.

REVIEWS.

LATEST INDEPENDENT MUSIC RELEASES.

VALGEIR SIGURÐSSON.

ICELAND'S PREMIER PRODUCER SPEAKS TO NOWTHEN.

WE AIM.

TO INFORM PEOPLE HONESTLY.

TO RAISE AWARENESS OF INDEPENDENT ART, LITERATURE, MUSIC AND TRADE.

TO REVEAL THE LINKS BETWEEN ART, MUSIC, LITERATURE, CULTURE AND LOCAL POLITICS.

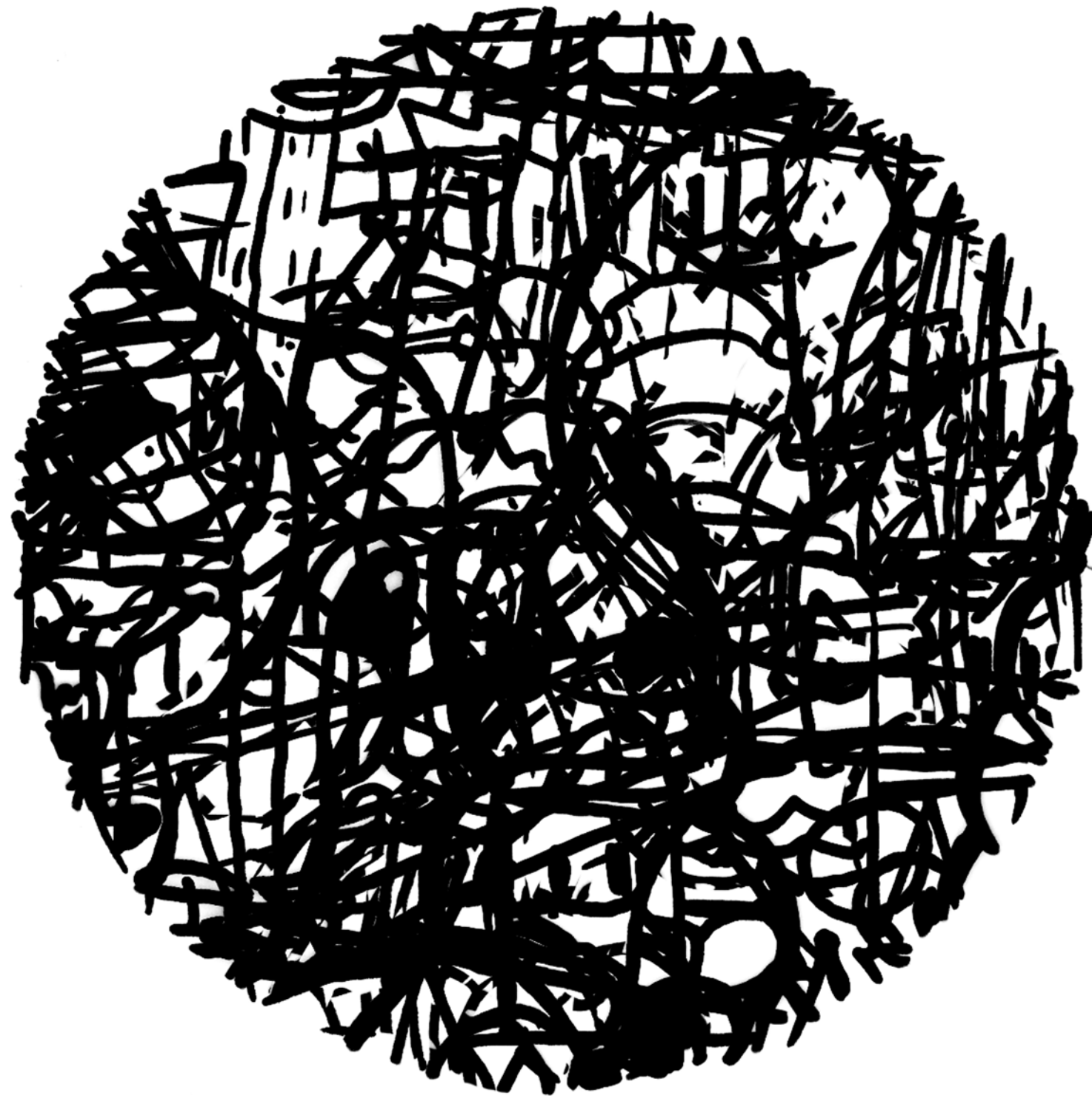
TO CREATE A PRO-ACTIVE COMMUNITY, WHICH REFLECTS AND ACTS IN AN INFORMED MANNER ON CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES.

TO CULTIVATE AND EMPOWER INDEPENDENT CHOICE, VOICE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

CONTENTS.

PAGE ONE.

NO MESSING ABOUT.



EDITORIAL.

MARCH.

Months just seem to be slipping by and we're one step closer to our first birthday. The party's being planned as we speak so keep 'em peeled for details - you're all invited.

Our images this month come courtesy of Luke Drozd, a Leeds lad at the deep end of the pixel and pencil pool.

Recommended read goes to What I Wore Today - roots level fashion at its best.

As usual Two Men In A Pub tell us how northerners would do it, while No Quarter give us their thoughts on the modern condition.

Also look out for interviews with Icelandic producer Valgier Sigurðsson and Sulphate founder Alex Szabo-Haslam.

NICK.

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ALTHOUGH IT MAY SEEM THAT THE BLEAK MID-WINTER STILL HANGS OVER US,
MANY ARE GEARING UP FOR THE FESTIVITIES OF WARMER MONTHS – AND THEY
WANT YOU TO GET INVOLVED!

JUST TO KEEP YOU SMILING UNTIL IT DOES WARM UP, WE'VE GOT DETAILS OF THE
SWAP SHOP WEEKEND – A WAY TO SWAP ALL YOUR JUNK FOR NEW GUBBINS.

SHARROW LANTERN FESTIVAL.

Each year a gang of Sheffield folk proceed through the streets of Sharrow, fiery totems held aloft. No, it's not a satanic ritual, it's community art. The totems are, in fact, lanterns made from willow and tissue which have been constructed by creative locals at workshops held throughout the spring. This year's Sharrow Lantern Carnival is scheduled for early April and the theme is folklore. The free lantern-making workshops run by Creative Action Network are now in full swing. If you're into this kind of lark, they're also currently running flag workshops, in which you can design an emblem to be displayed in the streets of Sharrow. Check out their website at creativeaction.net for more.

PEACE IN THE PARK.

June may seem a mile off, but the core team behind 2009's Peace in the Park festival have already been meeting for months, plotting and scheming to make sure that this year's festival is bigger and better than ever before. The event will take place on The Ponderosa again this year and there are innumerable ways to take part in the preparations. If you want to help with planning, check out the website for dates of the open meetings. Fundraising gigs have already started and upcoming events include:

Saturday 14 March
CURRY IN THE SURREY at The Earl of Arundel and Surrey, 7.30 til late! Curry, live bands and DJs.

Saturday 18 April
ALL DAYER at the Lescar. Live bands, DJs, poetry and raffle.

Saturday 9 May:
FULL MOON PARTY at the Common Ground. Live bands, DJs and food.

The co-ordination team are also looking for people to get involved on the day with set up, stewarding and activities, and (of course) performers of all kinds are needed.

Check out web.peaceinthepark.org.uk for more details.

SWAPSHOP WEEKEND.

Friday 13th- Sunday 15th March will see the Encounters shop on Wostenholm Road transformed into a magical bazaar of the best kind: one where no money changes hands. Several events will take place throughout the weekend including a women's event with tea, chatting and clothes swapping and alterations (the afternoon of Friday 13th March), a bookswap (ongoing, but with a special brunch event on the morning of Sunday 15th) and a Clothes Swap Disco (probably the evening of Friday 13th, venue TBC). Free workshops including 'Learn to Knit' and 'Make your own pinhole camera' will be held throughout Saturday 14th March in the shop itself.

If you fancy volunteering in the shop as a swap-merchant, contact Cassie on cassie_hot-mama@yahoo.co.uk, or go to sharrowencounters.org.uk/currentprojects.htm.

CASSIE KILL.

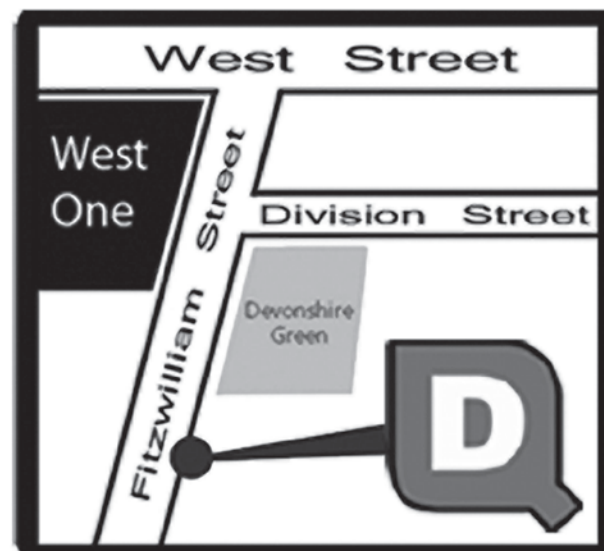
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THE ONLY THINGS CERTAIN IN LIFE ARE DEATH AND TAXES. DEATH IS PRETTY UNSTOPPABLE, BUT TAXES ARE BLOWN AWAY BY ANOTHER MAXIM - "THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE". KINDNESS, FRIENDSHIP, LOVE, SUNSHINE ON A CUT GRASS BREEZE - THAT SORT OF THING DOESN'T COST A PENNY. SO WHAT'S THE USE OF TAXES?

Originally used to fight wars and build fancy buildings to impress people, taxes are now spent on dull things like education, rubbish collection and housing. Some people want to only pay for the services they use - parents would pay for schools, old people would pay for their own care, the poor would pay for their burial in paupers' graves. With no safety net, anyone falling on hard times would end in the gutter, stepped over by the rich and healthy.

On March 6th a special budget meeting of Sheffield Council will set out how they will spend money from Government and local taxes. Sometimes councils have visionary ideas about massive investment, but then usually go bankrupt. Opposition parties who know their budget will not be carried out can promise a free parrot for every grandma and trampoline lessons for all, whereas those in power have to balance the books.

In Sheffield, the money coming into the Council is nearly two billion quid - about the same as it would take to buy Somalia, or a tin of hand-reared pilchards from Waitrose. With that much, even tinkering around the edges can do a lot of good.

MONEY FROM GOVERNMENT - £1,150 MILLION

The Government collects a load of cash from income tax and value-added tax and people-who-wouldn't-vote-for-us-anyway tax. They pay this out to councils and most of it is tied to services like schools, supporting ex-drug users and planning what gets built where.

Another big chunk comes from business rates, which are paid to Government, split up and then sent out to councils. Unlike the money for specific services, councils get to decide where this goes - mostly on services not fully funded by the first lot of cash like libraries, looking after children in care and supporting businesses.

The government also funds investment in mending and building roads, council housing and so on. Much of this is done through the Government 'allowing' councils to borrow cash. In all, Sheffield Council already owes the Government about a billion pounds. Like a waitress pretending to be a film star, councils can't resist borrowing money to look good.

FEES FOR COUNCIL SERVICES, COUNCIL HOUSE RENT AND OTHER CHARGES - £350 MILLION

This money usually stays in the services that it was charged from. For example, council house rents pay for repairs and heating to council housing.

COUNCIL TAX - £200 MILLION

Money from council taxes plugs the remaining gaps. This year the Lib Dems have promised to only put them up by 2%, which doesn't cover the rising costs of what the Council needs to buy. That has put a squeeze on Council finances with everyone having to make 'efficiencies', which really means 'you've got less money and staff - deal with it'. To balance their budgets, gangs of social workers will soon be cadging change in the Peace Gardens.

Neither Government nor Council wants to raise taxes, because they are scared of losing votes, so the Council budget will remain stretched. Half a billion pounds will go on staff pay, but not everyone does well out of that. A recent pay review ended up with lower paid workers losing out, conditions cut for everyone and some unimpressed unions.

Happily, the Council doesn't have to worry about fair pay or unions when buying in other people. Some services are provided by voluntary, community and faith groups. The nice thing about charities and voluntary groups is that a lot of work is done out of the milk of human kindness, but that can end up with human kindness being milked.

The reason charities work is because people are prepared to do stuff for free, because they recognise the best things in life aren't about money but friendship, love, sunshine on a cut grass breeze. Even then, charity volunteers need support, training and biscuits. That's where taxes can help.

The proposed Council budget gives about £3.5 million to lunch clubs for the elderly, financial advice and many more charitable services. With charities now getting less money from Europe, Government and private companies, council funding becomes even more important.

All in all, millions of pounds from taxes go towards good stuff, even if they can't buy sunshine. See the Sheffield Star for coverage of the Council budget www.tinyurl.com/googleshefstar and the Council site for endless details of the proposed budget for this year www.tinyurl.com/shefcouncilbudget09

One way of paying less tax is by working fewer days of the week! Then you can donate your time and skills to charity - for example, go to Voluntary Action Sheffield (www.vas.org.uk) and say you want to be a volunteer.

Or, if you can't donate time then give to a charity of your choice (www.justgiving.com) to help them do more.

COUNCIL AXE.

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OK, SO HERE'S THE LOWDOWN. I'M
AN ARTIST/PRODUCER/DJ CALLED
ULTRAMEGASUPADEADLY AND I AM DOING
A PROJECT CALLED MIXED/REMIXED IN
SHEFFIELD. IT IS A TWO PART PROJECT
CELEBRATING UNDERGROUND MUSIC FROM
SHEFFIELD.

Part 1 is a 360 degree DJ mix of electronic music
produced in this city - experimental through to drum
'n' bass with everything in between - an opportunity
to show off the diversity of music being made here.
It is to be presented in the form of a podcast and
a compilation of selected tracks from the mix, as
well as an event to be held in April/May where
featured artists will play live and DJ, with wall space
dedicated to works of Sheffield artists.

Part 2 involves me remixing 10 Sheffield bands for
release as an album in conjunction with an event
celebrating the project to be held later in the year.
Various bands involved will play live in between DJ
sets that will have a strictly 'produced in Sheffield'
music policy.

Why am I doing this? To offer an alternative
perspective to what I have seen reported as the
musical footprint of this city of late, and a focus
on the present activity in electronica and the live
arena.

At this point I want to make it absolutely clear
that I am both proud of the achievements of the
bands and artists that have come out of Sheffield
and understand the importance of celebrating
the achievements of high-profile artists. They
are already household names, so it's a quick
way to make this city look good and it's worth
documenting. I also understand sometimes it takes
bands to break big in your city before the southern-
based industry will take you seriously.

However, I am particularly interested in doing
something that unites, that is about celebrating
what actually is happening now, and hopefully
- dare I say it - gets Sheffield ahead of the game
a little bit by helping to nurture the growth of its
artists. It is for this reason that I am trying to make
this project as free and accessible to all as it can
be. Sheffield is a hard city in some respects. When I
initially started this I thought it would be hard to pull
the sometimes disparate musical tribes together,
but on the whole it has actually been the opposite
most of the time. Not only this, but I have discovered
a lot more music hidden in nooks and crannies,
lurking in bedrooms and on the hard drives of
people scattered around the city, than I could have
hoped for!

So, who is on the mix and who is getting remixed?
The mix features artists such as Darqwan, Tommy
Vicari Jnr, Bitslap, Rogue State, Pedram, Run Hide
Survive, Paul Sleaze, Shaun Perry, Chris Duckenfield,
Bozswell, M.I. Loki, Silas, Audiobulb Records
and Ultramegasupadeadly - but I've extended
the submission deadline to the second week in
March, so if you're reading this and you're making
electronic music, get in touch.

Who is being remixed? Already confirmed for
the remix treatment are Skeletons, Alvarez Kings,
Mirimar Disaster, Double No No, Darlings of the Split
Screen, Crystal Teetheart, Little Lost David and Lords
of Flatbush. Again, get in touch!

All said and done, it just took somebody to get off
their arse and pull all this together. So when the mix
is surfacing and the events are happening, come
on Sheffield, welcome the wealth of artistic talents
of your city.

If you want to know more about this project or
hear/see any of my work, please visit:

myspace.com/ultramegasupadeadly

And remember, support your local talent, they
need you more now than ever...

LIAM O'SHEA.

MIXED/REMIXED.

SHEFFIELD'S MUSICAL FOOTPRINT.

PAGE NINE.

HEROIN ADDICTION IN BRITAIN APPEARS TO HAVE SPIRALLED OUT OF CONTROL IN RECENT YEARS. ITS WIDESPREAD USE AND THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COSTS OF HEROIN ABUSE HAVE INCREASED EXPONENTIALLY OVER THE LAST 40 YEARS, GROWING FROM A RELATIVELY MINOR AND CONTAINED PROBLEM TO A MAJOR ISSUE THAT THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO ADDRESS.

In the 60s estimates suggested that there were less than 500 regular heroin users. Current estimates suggest there are now at least 500,000 addicts. The annual cost to the British economy of Class A drug abuse in 2005 was estimated at £15.4 billion, 99% of which is attributed to 'problem' drug users, the majority of whom are heroin addicts. Individually it's estimated that each 'problematic' drug user costs the state £44,000 per year.

Heroin abuse is also estimated to cause nearly a 1,000 deaths a year and is closely linked with the transference of HIV and hepatitis C through injection with dirty or used needles.

The media's portrayal of heroin addiction alternates between a gross demonization of addicts as wilful criminals devoid of social and moral responsibility and pitiable sub-human creatures for whom heroin addiction is a life sentence. Heroin itself is commonly seen as the most dangerous Class A readily available in Britain.

Yet the actual dangers of the drug are grossly exaggerated and often misunderstood. Heroin is actually a relatively benign opiate. Its chemical name is diamorphine and when ingested it breaks down into morphine. Medical reference text Martindale records heroin as being "used for the control of severe pain in children and adults." It is even injected into premature babies who are recovering from operations.

Obviously, regular use of heroin is highly addictive and denial of supply to an addict will result in extreme withdrawal symptoms including huge physical and mental stress. However, in purely medical terms, the only recorded side-effect of the drug is to cause nausea and constipation in a minority of users.

A 1920s study of 900 heroin addicts in Philadelphia actually concluded there was "no evidence of change in the circulatory, hepatic, renal or endocrine functions" and that all the patients actually displayed remarkably good health, even though some had been opiate addicts for over 20 years.

Of course, heroin use can be fatal. Overdoses occasionally suppress breathing to the point of death. However, the volume of heroin required to achieve this is far higher than a normal hit, and even a doubling of dosage is unlikely to have any long-term detrimental effect. In fact, the fatal dosage for heroin is unusually high and the majority of deaths from overdoses are actually caused by combining it with other drugs or alcohol, which act to further suppress breathing.

The fact that, as a medical drug, it is relatively safe is undeniable: "Medical knowledge has long since lain to rest the myth that opiates observably harm the body," Dr Richard Brotman, 1965. Equally, it is true that heroin abuse can be attributed to nearly a 1,000 deaths a year, however, the cause of these deaths stems not from the dangers of the drug but its illegality.

Black market heroin is cut with many other substances including drain cleaner and cement dust and it is these other substances that most regularly lead to potentially fatal septicaemia, gangrene, heart failure and toxic poisoning. It is not heroin which causes abscesses or gangrene among addicts but these impurities.

Cut heroin varies from as little as 20% to as much as 90% purity, presenting a further danger to heroin addicts who, uncertain of the strength of each hit, are more exposed to potential overdoses than they would be if the drug was properly regulated.

The stereotyped associations of social exclusion, illness and disease are all by-products of heroin's unregulated sale and not the drug itself. Even the often accurate assumption that most addicts support their addictions through petty theft and prostitution is a result of the artificially-heightened prices set by the black market, which has forced them into criminality to support habits that can range from £20 to £200 a day.

Yet this black market seems to be at little risk. In the four decades since the misuse of drugs act (MDA) was introduced, illicit Class A drug use has continued to grow. In 1999, Barry Shaw, chief constable of Cleveland police, concluded: "There is overwhelming evidence to show that the prohibition-based policy in this country since 1971 has not been effective in controlling the availability or use of prohibited drugs. If there is indeed a war against drugs, it is not being won."

The introduction of the MDA in 1971, the subsequent reforms and the re-structuring of prohibitive drugs laws have had virtually no effect on the spread of drug use. Instead, making heroin and its supply illegal has merely made the use of it more dangerous and the control of it virtually impossible. So what's the solution?

Trial studies in Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Switzerland have all provided compelling evidence that suggests the legalised supply of heroin to known addicts may be the most effective and health-conscious way to address the situation.

All these trials found that when patients were given regularly prescribed heroin, there were huge health benefits, the spread of disease was slowed and criminality among the trial groups was dramatically reduced. Since the patients were no longer buying drugs on the streets, the number of dealers in the trial areas decreased dramatically. This, along with the fact that the prescribed heroin had to be taken in the clinic, resulted in a decrease in uptake of the drug among new users.

Heroin was available on regular prescription to known addicts in Britain until 1967, when its supply was restricted following pressure from the American government in part of their ongoing worldwide war on drugs.

Certain clinics did continue to supply heroin on prescription. The Chapel Street Clinic in Liverpool, run by Dr John Marks, continued a heroin prescription scheme until it was closed in the early 90s.

Addicts at the clinic were closely monitored for a two-year period from 1988. Over this period there was a 96% drop in theft, burglary and property crime among the group. There was no spread of HIV and Hep C and over a 10-year period not a single patient died of a drug-related death.

One reporter, Mike Gray, met the group and described them: "Unlike the junkies we are used to seeing, this group was virtually indistinguishable from any other bunch of young adults on the streets of Liverpool. They were well dressed, talkative, energetic - they had jobs -- and they used heroin daily."

The clinic's success was aired in a 60 minute documentary in Britain and on CBS in America, flagging up to both the American and British governments that their prohibitive methods of policing drug abuse were flawed and that the only way to control the use of the drug was to legalise and control the supply of it. But the sight of successful and healthy heroin addicts - most of whom now had full-time jobs, some of whom had mortgages and all of whom had managed to return to a normal and stable life - proved too embarrassing for the American government, who put pressure on the British government to close the scheme.

They were successful, and on April 1st 1995 the clinic was shut. At the time, there were 450 patients receiving prescription heroin. Over the next two years, 41 of these died and all returned to their old lifestyles to fund their addictions.

Prescribing heroin may seem like an extreme reaction to Britain's growing drug problem, but evidence concludes that such schemes lead to a decreased uptake of the drug and a reduction in the black market supply of it, as well as improved health and decreased mortality among addicts.

Prescription heroin allows addicts to re-start their lives, hold down jobs, manage their incomes and save for the future. Critics have argued that providing the drug freely will not aid addicts to kick their habit and is actually encouraging them to maintain it, but with the stability provided by these prescriptions users are left free to make choices for themselves - not for their addictions - and for many this may give them the strength they need to finally move away from heroin.

NICK BOOTH.

HEROIN.

SMACKS OF THE TRUTH.

PAGE ELEVEN.

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DUNG BEETLE HAS A LOT OF SHIT TO GET THROUGH



REFUSING ALL INTERVIEWS DUE TO HAVING "WAAAY TOO MUCH SHIT TO DO", A DUNG BEETLE WAS SEEN SCUTTLING THROUGH THE OUTER CAIRO SCRUBLAND YESTERDAY, ANXIOUSLY TRYING TO ROLL UP AND COMPARTMENTALISE DROPPINGS LEFT BY A PAIR OF RECENTLY-DEPARTED CAMELS.

"Shit! Shit.... SHIT!!" the beetle was quoted as saying earlier. Sources report that he was subsequently seen waving two of his front mandibles in panic before rearing up to display his gleaming jaw pincers in a fit of tiny rage.

"This shit is not cool," he is alleged to have added.

Despite declaring himself to be "sick of this shit", rumours suggest that the beetle has now decided to continue to hurriedly manoeuvre balls of dung for the rest of his life.

DUNG BEETLE: A LOT OF SHIT ON.

WOMAN NOT SURE IF SHE IS READY FOR RELATIONSHIP WITH SELF

HAVING SPENT THE LAST SEVEN YEARS IN AN ALMOST UNBROKEN CHAIN OF RELATIONSHIPS, RECENTLY DUMPED ROSIE FARNHAM, 24, IS NOT SURE WHETHER SHE IS READY FOR THE DAUNTING PROSPECT OF A MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP WITH HERSELF.

"I've just got a bad feeling about this one," said Farnham as she sat uncomfortably with herself in a local coffee shop. "I've been in lots of relationships, but this one looks like it could be more hassle than it's worth." Farnham continued: "I'd have to go through all that 'getting to know me' stuff. You know, finding out what music I'm into, what my favourite film is, where I like to go at the weekend... all that."

"In any case," she added, "I could put in all that groundwork and then realise that I'm not that into me after all."

For the last seven years, Farnham has managed to maintain a safe distance from any genuine notions of selfhood by defining her personality within the context of whomever she's been dating at the time. "It's made things a lot easier, believe me," she said as she lit a cigarette, a habit she picked up from a previous boyfriend. "While most of my female friends have gone through periods of self-discovery while they search for a suitable partner, I've managed to skirt round all that by immediately commencing a new relationship whenever I become single."

One of the problems facing Farnham as she embarks on this new and uncomfortable interpersonal arrangement is that she feels she has grown apart from herself over the years. "I haven't spent any quality time with myself since I was 17," she explained. "I was a bit of a loser at that age - I'd never even had a boyfriend. I've developed so much over the years that I don't think I'd have anything in common with a girl like that now."

"To be honest, I don't really fancy finding out," she concluded.

Rosie Farnham's relationship with herself ended three days after this interview was conducted, when a guy in the bar where she works said she was cute and asked if she fancied meeting up sometime.

DUNG BEETLE GETS HIS SHIT TOGETHER - WOMAN SCARED TO COMMIT TO SELF.

NOW THEN... a little bit about us.

Opus Independents incorporated as a Social Enterprise on December 5th of last year.

Opus aims to empower individuals through a variety of socially positive and financially sustainable projects. We offer individuals project opportunities in a variety of sectors ranging from the artistic through to those serving the under-privileged and marginalised.

Opus believes in the idea that social change must come from individuals. To change society rather than be changed by it an individual must have autonomy - or as we would call it Independence.

Opus exists to provide individuals with the freedom to develop their own socially positive projects and enable them to become independent professionals in whatever field they choose.

We place our trust in the good nature and intentions of the individuals that work with us and believe through them that positive, practical social change can be achieved.

By grassroots action we can positively affect change - be that encouraging personal development in a trade or skill, or simply making life easier through the provision of work, experience and training.

One good deed must lead to another.

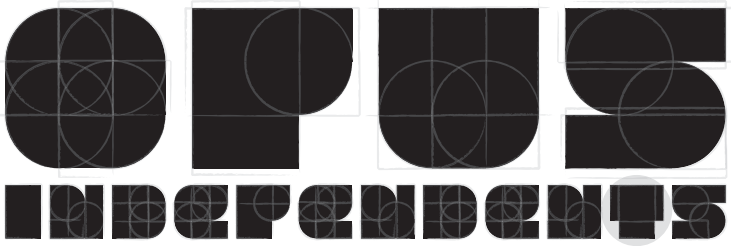
CURRENT OPUS PROJECTS

NOW THEN MAGAZINE - STUDIO 45 - BAD MONKEY

OPUS SOUNDS - OPUS BOOGALOO - OPUS LISTEN

CONTACT US AYUP@NOWTHENSHEFFIELD.COM

JAMES.



THE SWIM INN.

TWO MEN OF GREAT MATURITY AND WISDOM, CAPABLE AT A MOMENT’S NOTICE OF RUNNING THE COUNTRY. MEET EVERY WEEK IN A DIFFERENT PUB TO CONSIDER THE STATE OF THE WORLD AND PROPOSE THE CORRECT SOLUTIONS TO ITS VARIOUS PROBLEMS. THANKS TO THIS MAGAZINE, THEIR THOUGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS CAN NOW BE SHARED WITH THE WIDER POPULATION.

Now then, Bert. It’s not like you to want beer for breakfast, is it? So why Wetherspools? Bloody ‘ell (staring in amazement at the prices), ‘ere try this one at a pound a pint.

That’s not going to cheer me up. I’m feeling down, Bill. Went to the doctor yesterday. Not our regular one - this one were a homophobic doctor.

‘Eck, Bert, what for? You got something against gay people as well?

Nah, you don’t get me - one of them who gives you a cure that’s the same as what you’ve got.

Homeopathic, you twat. It’s bollocks. How can you get better by doing more of the same?

What d’you think I’m doing ‘ere, Bill? I got right pissed last night and I need a hair of the dog. That’s why we’re here at 10 in the morning. Mind you, a pound a pint - not a bad start to the day. I’m feeling chirpier already.

I’ll drink to that. Mind you, could get even cheaper. Deflation, Bill. You know what that is? I’ll tell you. It’s when prices fall coz nobody’s spending. Money supply goes down coz people are hoardin’ it.

I know that - but answer’s easy: you increase the amount of goods for sale and give people more money to stimulate spending. Just like we did in the 90s.

Ah, yes, Bert, but we got a banking crisis on top of it all - nobody’s lending money to make goods or to buy ‘em. We all want money, but who’s gonna lend it at a piddly interest rate? And of course no-one’s going to save, are they? I’m putting my cash in the UMB - the Under the Mattress Bank!

Not the Toxic Bank of Scotland?

Not the Royal Toxic Bank of Scotland, either. Talkin’ of toxic - it’s my turn. Same again? Maybe price has gone down already.

Then we’ll be swimmin’ in it (bursts out laughing). Geddit, Bill? Swim Inn.

(Returning with two pints) Nah, same price - deflation must ‘ave finished. You see, Bert, if goods get cheaper then money goes up in value. If I were a banker I’d do things the other way round - charge people to save with me but give ‘em free loans. That way people get spendin’ because they all start borrowin’.

But why spend money when it’s going up in value? Leave it in the Under the Mattress Bank like me!



But if it gets lost, where’s your government compensation? You got to use a proper bank. And with my bank, if you didn’t save with me I wouldn’t lend you any money for free. Say you save a tenner - I charge you a quid then lend you 20 for free. You spend your money, like the government wants, and we’re all happy.

I reckon it’d be a bloody disaster, Bill. My round, anyway, and I’m having another pint of this. At least we’re doin’ the government a favour by drinkin’. Drink, drink, drink and keep the economy going! It’s homophobic, that’s what it is. What’s the cure for spending borrowed money? Spend more borrowed money! You got homophobic medicine and homophobic economics!

I keep tellin’ you, you mean homeopathic. If we did we’d be up to our arse in inflation, Bill. And that’s bollocks. It’s your round. So what did you see doctor about yesterday?

Got stung by something.

Did it work?

Well, he stung me for fifty quid!

Remember when I had this back pain, Bill? All my working life I get no time off with back pain and now I’m retired this hits me. Went to doctor and he said it were “lower mechanical back pain”! Offered me a sick note. What’s the point of a sick note when you’re retired?

Mechanical back pain? Sounds like a robot disease to me. Did you try a homophobic doctor as well?

Nah, calls isselt an osteopath. Bloody painful, but he said it would be fine once the pain eased off. So I went to the pub, had a few pints and he was right. Pain went away, but I got a hangover instead.

Well, you know the cure for that, Bert. Me, I’m feeling better already. Let’s have the one we came for.

Mi Yard, Innit!

An exhibition by Elizabeth von Graevenitz

At: The Old Sweet Shop
7th Feb - April ’09

Opening Party: 7th Feb, 2pm - 6pm

1 Nether Edge Rd, Sheffield S7 1RU
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www.theoldsweetshopsheffield.co.uk



TWO MEN IN A PUB.

IF AT TIMES HISTORY CONDEMNS US TO A SEEMINGLY PAINFUL ECONOMICAL AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION, IT IS ART AND THE INGENUITY OF ARTISTS THAT BEST EXPRESSES THE NOBLER ASPIRATIONS OF CIVILISATION. ART IS HOW WE STORE PIECES OF THOUGHT AND BEAUTY, THINGS WE DECIDED TO BE TRUE. IT IS LITTERED WITH DEBRIS FROM THE PAST - OLD IMAGES, WORDS, SOUNDS GRADUALLY FORGOTTEN. LANGUAGE, BUT MORE SPECIFICALLY THE DESIRE TO COMMUNICATE, IS AT THE HEART OF ALL CREATIVITY. IT IS HOW WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER AND HOW WE STRUCTURE MOST OF OUR CONSCIOUS THOUGHT.

Poetry has been described as "the universal art of mankind", since the act of writing uses the same creative skills that are needed for the creation of any art. Although it can be technically complex and sometimes abstracted from everyday use, it is theoretically more accessible than other art forms. We are all familiar with manipulating language and the majority of us have the ability to read and write. Consider the impracticalities and obstacles to overcome when making other art forms such as cinema. It seems almost ironic, then, that even among English students poetry has developed a reputation as pretentious, incomprehensible and, at worst, simply irrelevant.

In ancient Greece there was little to separate philosophers and poets. The subject and focus of poetry has evolved throughout time, from early philosophical discussion to religious devotion, traditional courtly love poems to biting political satire. Poetry is often revolutionary and at the very least it is a call to arms - be it the arms to defend or attack an idea or the embrace of a lover. Negative perceptions of poetry as being a conservative and boring art form are perpetuated by our experience of poetry at school - the arduous and painful activity of identifying poetical techniques and matching essays against specified 'assessment objectives'.

There is a particularly fine literary heritage in the English language, but the study of a generally static canon made difficult by changes in language makes poetry an exercise more in history than self-expression. Poetry, like other art forms, should reveal the silent hands of culture, tradition and expectation that dictate how we interact with our environment and each other. The study of nuances of meter, rhythm and imagery help us understand the building blocks of poetry but treat art as if it cannot be interacted with or created on any other level. Poetry, like certain art courses, should be taught as a way to engage creatively with ourselves and the world. Students are taught not necessarily how to read poetry, but how to acknowledge the technical devices that separate it from everyday speech.

If at times we turn away from the deceit and spin of politicians, who is it we turn to in order not just to understand the times we live in but to lead us through them? It is the poets and artists who are buying the same overpriced chopped tomatoes in the queue behind you at the supermarket; those who share our fears of morality and hope for our children. Poetry does not belong to academics or even poets; it belongs in the hands of people walking past you in the street.

The new tradition of spoken word, celebrated in contexts such as slam poetry, is helping to clear the cobwebs on library poetry shelves. Go to an open mic night and hear poetry from the local community that is for the local community. Poetry is an art form that requires skill, but most of all an unflinching honesty with yourself. The power to write and create is not a pastime to be sneered at. Try it - you might be surprised to hear what you have to say.

JOE KRISS.

WORD LIFE

WE ACCEPT PROSE AND POETRY
SUBMISSIONS. PLEASE SUBMIT TO
CREATIVE@NOWTHENSHEFFIELD.COM.

Poems taken from publication 'Voices In
Exile', a collection of poems written by asylum
seekers and refugees funded by Sheffield City
Council. The address to order poetry books is
convclubpublications@googlemail.com.

GAIA'S REQUIEM IN A MINOR.

In the end,
When we've done all we do,
Not done all we should,
Said all we could.
And blamed all but ourselves,
The sun will find it too painful to rise and see another
dawn.
The stars will shed the last of their tears, and turn
away.
The moon will turn cold, and fall to the ground.
The rivers, in search for better days, will flow back to
the mountaintops.
The clock will strike twenty five and grind to a halt.
Memories will cease to flow through our veins.
Our dreams will lay themselves down to sleep, never
to wake;
Our nightmares will rise to stare at us from the abyss.
The greed of generations past, and standing, will
give life to the generation
Coming.
The weight we've put on Mother Earth's shoulders will
finally break her back,
And force her to bite the dust.
Then, maybe, we will learn....
.... We can't eat money.

RAS KAIMANI KALONJI.

ROBINSON CRUSOE.

I approached a sorrowful sunset,
I was dead.
And all that remained of me
Was my tiny name.
Only remained,
My tiny name.

My tiny name,
Soaked, Frightened and tired,
Reached the shore.
Strangely.
Searched deeply
The island's trees.

The island was tiny and nice.
The island was huge and ugly.
The island, was the far end
Of the world.

My name,
It was only my mother who knew it.
And a kind friend,
Who was my childhood playmate.
But later, when we grew up a bit,
He pointed a gun at my face.

And the Island,
Has recorded my name
At the old college of ESOL,
In the Home Office files,
At the police station,
And in many job agencies.

HOOSHYAR HOSEINI.

IN SEARCH OF LIFE.

It is not a game to leave everything behind.
No, not an easy job to leave everything behind.

Those precious friends, family and childhood.
That passion of father and lovely motherhood.
Because there was no chance of survival,
So we left everything behind.

We came here on this land,
We've seen the death like burning sand.
In search of life and hope,
We left everything behind.

We are here, looking for new friends,
Now neighbours and a love of no ends.
So we left everything behind.

Come on Jabeen, make a promise today.
Be loyal to this land, and be free this day.
This land which gave us shelter and comfort,
Even though we left everything behind.

PROMILLA JABEEN.

WORDLIFE.

WHAT DID YOU WEAR TODAY? AN INNOCENT ENOUGH QUESTION, BUT ONE THAT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN RECENT YEARS. THE INTERNET EXPLOSION HAS HAD A WORLDWIDE IMPACT BY ALLOWING ORDINARY PEOPLE A VOICE, AND THIS HAS HAD A MONUMENTAL EFFECT ON FASHION. THERE HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES DEVOTED SOLELY TO FASHION, WHERE PEOPLE POST IMAGES OF THEMSELVES AND DISCUSS ENSEMBLE IDEAS AND DESIGN CONCEPTS.

Previous decades have had their defining trends, but the Noughties has had no such collective 'look.' More than ever, men and women are using their clothes as personal expressions of their identities, resulting in an amalgamation of looks from boho to disco, romantic to futuristic. Away from the mainstream media and fashion icons like Kate Moss, this quiet revolution has been gathering pace. Fashion is no longer about emulating celebrities, but about having fun with your image.

This playful sense of fashion can be seen in the recently published What I Wore Today, which assembles photographs of women from around the world showcasing their daily fashion creations. To create the book, Eleanor Mathieson looked online and sourced 250 images from Flickr, blogs and other websites.

Explaining her motivation, she said, "I found it so interesting that women were sharing their own style in an unselfconscious and genuine way. The internet enables people to connect and to share styles and trends, creating unique looks and fashion ideas."

The book has been such a success that there are plans for a second edition later this year. The appeal of these voyeuristic photos is that they give an unprecedented and unique insight into the style of real girls today. For these fashion-forward women the outfits are as important as the background in which they are set. Some are artistically staged, and others appear more spontaneous, but each photo is a personal snap-shot of their life, providing insight into personality and fashion choices. Included with each photo is a self-penned description of the outfits and where they were bought. Some also include quotes about their day or a certain item of clothing; small details that add a sense of individuality and make them stand out from the staged, conventional photos in the fashion pages of Vogue.

Another example of this phenomenon can be found on ilikemystyle.net. It is an independent project founded by a group of friends from Germany and the US. They encourage people to join their online community of peer-inspired fashion obsessives. Their motto is: "Post your own pictures. Like your own style." They encourage people to send in photos of their daily outfits and comment on each other's looks. There are no rules; vintage is mixed with high street and couture combined with handmade pieces, and in the spirit of sharing the user says where they got the clothes, the fabric and anything else you might want to know. The site has been created with the user in mind and as well as analysing outfits, users can forward the photos to friends, search out looks by categories, names and wardrobe details. Everyone engages in debate and there is a refreshing lack of the cattiness which pervades the fashion world. As a forum for ideas, there is a personal sense of creativity and eclecticism that many top designers would kill to have.

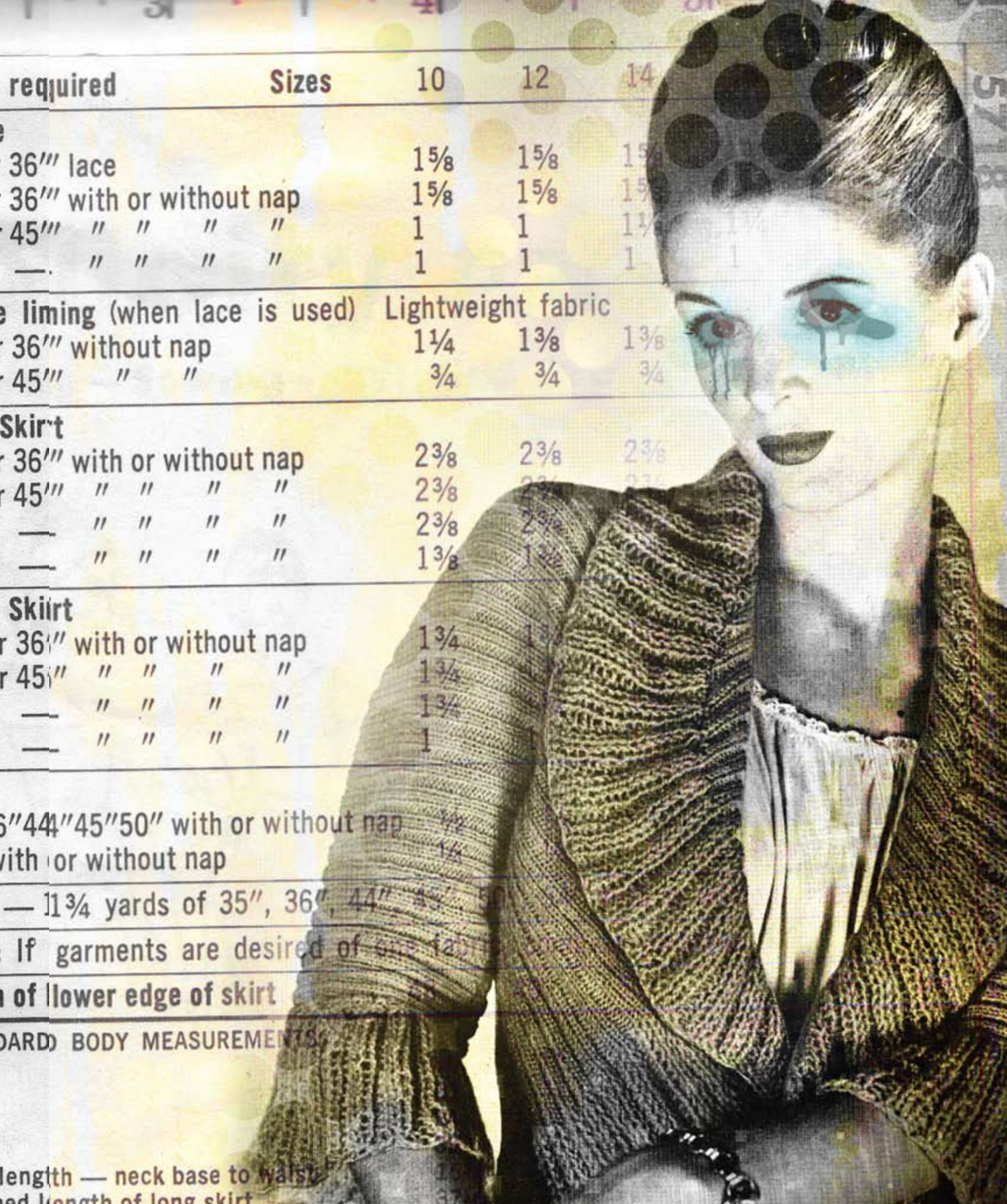
At a grass-roots level, What I Wore Today and ilikemystyle.net have tapped into a pioneering online fashion movement. The mood behind this phenomenon is about sharing and inspiring, creating databases of ideas and looks that everyone can use. These photos have become such a way of life for some that it is a daily ritual to post their outfit online. This new wave of amateur portrait photography has prompted debate and communication between women from all over the world. Not only is it a fascinating and intimate look at street style, but the women themselves have become global representatives, symbolising a new breed of self-assured, creative individuals who are open and proud about their passion for clothes.

What I Wore Today is published by Graffito Books (www.graffitobooks.com)

www.ilikemystyle.net

ALI POTTER.

WHAT I WORE TODAY.





dulo comes with march heat...

FRIDAY'S

6th - The Re:Up :

US Garage and Soulful House sounds to ease you into the weekend. A little bit of Shelter, Space terrace and Southport, with Mr.Dave Hardy (Jus' House/More About Music).

13th - We Got Next:

An eclectic blend of the freshest in current underground dance music, from Reggae, Afrobeat, Broken, Hip Hop, Boogie, House and whatever else we're feelin'.

20th - All Souled Out:

We journey through all things soul, from the distant past to present day, from Motown to the choicest in modern soulful music featuring Wigan's very own Daniel Swain.

27th - The Jump Off:

Strictly Hip Hop, from old skool classics to the brand new, Krs One to Kanye West. Shelltoes, Kangol's, and VW badges welcome.

Resident: Monkz (Small Arms Fiya/ More About Music) w/ regular guests.

SATURDAY'S

7th - Pseudo 54 pre party banger:

Pseudo 54 celebrate their 1st birthday! To warm you up for this momentous booty shaker, pseudo residents will be ready to put the soul in your evening

15th - Dopeness:

Trans pennine rave vibez at Dulo. Hip Hop to House with plenty of bruk n boogie inbetween... Mike O'mara of Deleopment in manc hotly supported by mans dem monkz & marek

21st - Don't Walk Boogie:

One of Steel City's finest, the hardest working Mr.Dynamite himself, Dan J, brings out the Disco, Boogie, and Housed- up bombs in his own inimitable style.

28th - Biggun vs. Wigan:

Dulo head honcho The African meets Swain Dog in a no holds barred, no submissions cagefight style soundclash. Expect the unexpected and then some...

8pm til 1am
dulo. 17 Cemetery rd. Sheff
facebook/bigupdulo
myspace/dulosheffield

mish mash

kitchen café bar



15% off for all students

Midweek evening offer (tues & weds only)
Free bottle of house wine enjoyed with 3 courses

Upcoming events...

Mismatch acoustic night - Mar 4th - all welcome
Local artist exhibition upstairs - launching Mar 6th

for more information call -
0114 268 4074



617 ecclesall road - hunters bar - sheffield - s11 8pt



LUKE DROZD



LUKEDROZD.COM

THE BEST ARTISTS ARE THOSE WHO IGNORE THE RESTRAINTS OF ANY GIVEN SCENE OR MEDIUM AND TRY OUT NEW IDEAS CONSTANTLY. THE LUCKY ONES COMBINE THIS WITH AN INSTANTLY RECOGNISABLE STYLE.

LUKE DROZD SUMS UP BOTH PERFECTLY. I FIRST CAME ACROSS HIS ARTWORK THROUGH THE EXCELLENT 'BIRDWAR' RECORD LABEL HE RUNS, AND HAVE ALWAYS LOVED THE FRESH TAKE AND OBVIOUS EFFORT HE PUTS INTO HIS WORK.

EXPECT BIG THINGS FROM THIS GENT - AND PROBABLY NOT WHAT YOU'D EXPECT...

NT. BASICS, PLEASE. WHAT STARTED YOU DRAWING?

I suppose I've always drawn. I was one of those children who didn't really like going outside and instead would sit inside drawing. Not much has changed.

NT. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE PROCESS OF STARTING A NEW PIECE?

It completely depends on what piece it is. If it's an illustration for a client it means trying to work out a way of best conveying their message/music/image whilst still creating something that looks and feels like I made it. If it's fine art stuff it can be quite intuitive, literally playing with materials, or it can be me trying to convey a certain something else.

That seems to make it all sound very vague and mystical which it isn't - it's just not always easy to convey in words.

NT. WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION FROM?

Everything and anything. I'm a hoarder and a collector so I will often have objects, images and books lying around for a long time that I love and excite me, and these will slowly creep into my work or inform it somehow.

Sometimes, though much less often, things just pop into my head - a strange description that would work as a drawing or an object I'd like to make. I suppose in the end it can be anything at all that causes the spark.

NT. TOOLS. WHAT DO YOU USE REGULARLY AND WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE?

Hammers are my favourite. I love a good hammer, though I always smash someone's skull in with it whenever I pick one up.

For work I'm a pencil and pen man with a spot of computer trickery tacked on the end.

NT. WHAT OTHER ARTISTIC MEDIA HAVE HAD AN EFFECT ON YOUR ART?

It's not really about specific media for me. I just have a love of art, whether it be graphic, video, paintings, installations. I tend to be of the belief that you choose the media that best represents what you want to do rather than shoe-horning ideas into any one media.

NT. HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR DAYS?

I spend my days making things, punctuated with eating, sleeping and a few other things unfit for these pages.

NT. WHICH PIECE OF WORK THAT YOU'VE DONE RECENTLY HAVE YOU ENJOYED THE MOST?

I have been making a slew of new stuff of late and it's taking me into new and uncharted waters within my practice. Currently there are some ceramic pieces and some video work that has been enjoyable to make, both from the point of view of the outcome and the lessons learnt in making them. Some of them work, some don't, but I guess it's the work that comes next that's always the interesting bit.

NT. HOW HAS YOUR ART EVOLVED OVER TIME?
I think it is a constantly evolving process.

What I am interested in now and the work I want to make will be completely different from what I am interested in or want to make in 12 months' time. Or what I was interested in 12 months ago, for that matter.

NT. HOW HAS ART IN GENERAL CHANGED SINCE YOU STARTED?
I don't really know, though I'm sure it has. I suppose we have watched the art world swell and become this greedy beast, making promises to artists it can't possibly keep, which will have to change in the months and years ahead. The world is saturated with those claiming to be artists and this current economic climate should help to separate the wheat from the chaff. We'll see which pile I end up on...

NT. ANY TIPS ON HOW TO SURVIVE MAKING MONEY FROM ART? AND DO YOU FIND IT IMPORTANT?

I'm afraid not. While I am lucky enough that most of my income comes from me making things, it's still far from being a king's ransom. I also do bits of lecturing work on top of my practice. And in answer to the second half of that question, it's important in that without the money my work generates I can't eat or pay my rent. I guess that makes it pretty important.

NT. WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE IN ART?

I dislike lots of things. At the risk of boring folks I'll just pick a few. I dislike it when people's work becomes formulaic and they churn out the same pap year on year. I dislike those who value money/cool/fashion over integrity and I dislike poor work hiding behind convoluted and facile explanations.

NT. WHAT MAKES YOU SMILE IN ART?

Again, just as many things as those I dislike so here's the pick of the bunch. I like it when art genuinely surprises me. I love the feeling of going to an exhibition and having your socks knocked off. I enjoy art that confuses me and insists I go back for seconds. Most importantly what makes me smile the most are those moments when you meet people in the art world who just love and believe in it as much as you.

NT. GOOD ADVICE YOU WISH YOU'D BE TOLD EARLIER?
Do what you want...

**MATT JONES
speaking to
LUKE DROZD.**

LUKE DROZD.

LEEDS LAD & POSTER ART LEGEND SPEAKS TO JONES.

PAGE TWENTY-THREE.



MARCH 09

COME SEE

**SAT
RIDDIMTION**

7TH

REGGAE RAGGA LOVERS DANCEHALL

**SAT
REMOTE CONTROL**

14TH

NOE BREAKS BEATS BANDS

**SAT
DEATH BY SHOES**

21ST

POST PUNK ALT NOISE

**SAT
MY LAZY LOVERS**

28TH

VSON TOP CREW
HIPHOP BEATS BASS GRIME

**OPEN MIC
EVERY TUESDAY
EIGHT TIL LATE**

**SUNDAY SESSIONS
ACOUSTIC ACTS
CHILLOUT DJS
LIVE JAZZ BANDS**

HOW I WISH YOU COULD SEE THE POTENTIAL
THE POTENTIAL OF YOU AND ME
IT'S LIKE A BOOK ELEGANTLY BOUND BUT
IN A LANGUAGE THAT YOU CAN'T READ

JUST YET

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MARCH LISTINGS

Friday 6th	Home Grown Madness (DJ'S)
Saturday 7th	Camouflaged (DJ's)
Friday 13th	TBC (DJ'S)
Saturday 14th	Sunshine on a Rainy Day (DJ's)
Friday 20th	TBC (DJ'S)
Saturday 21st	Riddimtion (DJ's)
Friday 27th	Broke (DJ's)
Saturday 28th	Lost Dog (DJ'S)

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EVERY WEEK

MONDAY Redtooth Poker League
TUESDAY Redtooth Quiz and 3 tins raffle with cash prize
WEDNESDAY All comers' pool competition with cash prizes
THURSDAY Open Mic Acoustic night
SUNDAY All comers' poker game

**HAPPY
FUNERAL**



**I HOPE IT
WENT WELL
I HOPE IT
WENT WELL**



The Forum Bar
will be closed for
refurbishments
between Mondays
and Thursdays
during March.

BUT we will **OPEN**
every Friday,
Saturday and
Sunday as usual!

If you are a DJ,
Band, Promoter or
artist and would like
to be part of the
shiny new forum,
please send your
demos, proposals
and artwork to

patti@forumsheffield.co.uk

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www.forumsheffield.co.uk
[myspace/facebook/twitter](#)





What you lookin' at dicknose

Redhouse

Solly Street

Sun 1 Mar FOLK ALLDAYER: Chris Treebeard and Paul Pearson present an all day smogasbord of folk. Free Entry

Mon 2 Mar PUNK LIVES: Punk, Ska & Hardcore: Eternal Stench, The Arguments, FC DOG and THE HYENAS from 7:30

Tue 3 Mar OPEN DECKS: All genres welcomed

Thu 5 Mar PLUS: Love Bloc insanity with audio visual delights

Fri 6 Mar ASYLUM: drum and bass Doors@9 Free

Sat 7 Mar SECRETS OF THE BOUDOIR BURLESQUE.

Sun 8 Mar Heavy and Psychedelic: Naison, Tacoma Narrows Bridge Disaster, Sweat Bees, Widows Mite & Fordy. from 7:30

Mon 9 Mar PAUL BURNETT: Eclectic night of live music.

Tue 10 Mar OXJAM: line up to follow.

Fri 13 Mar TINNITUS: underground electronic music.

Sat 14 Mar MOSH'N'GO PSYCHOBILLY: Blue Demon, The Speedkings and Scarlet Daggers plus DJs 'til late Doors@8

Sun 15 Mar Sheffield Children's Hospital Fundraiser with: Gareth Hope (Henry's Carpet Skip), Gi Gi, Jonathan Payne, Slowburn, Ben Lloyd, MARC MIRANDA KITCHEN BAND, James Cutts, Bob George Saull - from 4pm. Donations

Mon 16 Mar PUNK SKA AND HARDCORE: Joey Terri-fying, FC DOG & TBC from 8

Tue 17 Mar ANARCHO ACOUSTIC: POG, James Black & L Morgan plus local man Tom C. Doors@8

Thu 19 Mar VAUDEVILLE from JASON RICHFORD: Music, Cabaret and Comedy. Doors@8

Fri 20 Mar CLUB GORE: D'N'B, Mental beats and pumped up electro doors@10pm.

Sun 22 Mar LOVEBLOC FUNDRAISER: details tbc. Contact redhousegigs@googlemail.com

Mon 23 Mar ALWAYS MIND THE BOLLOCKS: Funky quiz thing - its all a laugh really. FREE ENTRY

Tue 24 Mar LITTLE MAN MUSIC PRESENTS: a night or metal and Rock featuring CAUSE OF DENIAL.

Fri 27 Mar KARMA ALL STARS FANCY DRESS: The BEST Fancy Dress Party in Sheffield. A random evening of quality tunes. Best dressed gets a prize! Spin off @ 9 - music til late

Sat 28 Mar MOJO AND THE BEATNIKS PEACE IN THE PARK FUNDRAISER

Mon 30 Mar SKIFFLE & FOLK: Dr Butlers Medicine Hatstand Band, GAIA and Bob Saull doors@8pm

Tue 31 Mar SMALL IDEAS PROMOTIONS: AUCAM (Italy) plus TBC.

OPEN MIC WEDNESDAYS FROM 8

FEATURED ACTS, FULL BACKLINE, BOOZEY OFFERS



everyone welcome

06/03/09 - Plug Soundclash
The Dodgems
The Regulars + Dead Like Harry + Sleepwalker

07/03/09
Imelda May

14/03/09
Howling Bells
The Magi + Joy Formidable + Two Skies

17/03/09
Rumblestrips
Wet Paint

20/03/09
Maccabees

21/03/09
Mr Hudson
Mpho + Alan Pownall

27/03/09 - Plug Soundclash
The Hosts
Seven Hills + Chatfield + Simple Delivery

28/03/09
Dead Delta
The Hinges + Left Ajar + Discokiss

04/04/09
Ghetts
T-Flow + Young Blud + Ohpityme

09/04/09
Skint & Demoralised

11/04/09 - Plug Soundclash
Darke Horse
Glass Youth + The Cartels + Friends of Heroes

24/04/09 - Music First Present...
The Derek Trucks Band

25/04/09
Century Kids (EP Launch)
The Harringtons + Supernova Bandits + Simple Delivery

02/05/09
Orange 38

09/05/09
Baddies
The First Floor + Henrys Carpet Skip

16/05/09
Tinchy Stryder
Vex One ft. Nem + J Yezza + JD New Generation

23/05/09
Mongrel

20/06/09
Playground Mafia

PLUS AKA + BIRLOTTA +
BIRLOTTA + BIRLOTTA +
BIRLOTTA + BIRLOTTA +
BIRLOTTA + BIRLOTTA +

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AS PREDICTED THE NEW YEAR HAS SEEN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY FLOUNDERING A LITTLE IN THE WAKE OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS CAUSED BY A FEW FAT CATS. THE PUNISHMENT FOR THIS CRIME? A BIG FAT BONUS - A FAIR PENALTY, WE CAN ALL AGREE.

The music bigwigs, like most other non-bankers, have not been quite so fortunate. Distributors have gone bust, record releases have been pushed back and funding for new recordings has been withdrawn. To say the least, there has been a surprising amount of sweating going on for such a bitterly cold winter. And the winter has had its impact too. Gigs have been cancelled as a result of the snow and the shows that were on felt like Stalingrad in World War II - the punters standing like lonely soldiers freezing to death, wishing the band would just stop playing and shoot them instead. Okay, I'll admit it - I'm exaggerating. Things haven't been that bad but to be fair that is the kind of bleak picture the media has been busy painting for us.

Nevertheless, under the crushing weight of recession, in the grey dismal ice-covered city, life has continued, music has been made. The DIY promoters, bands and labels have shuddered at the cold, pulled on their thickest wools, hats and fingerless gloves and set about their business with keen intent. Not reliant on big business to perform their function, DIY events and organisations offer sustainable, enjoyable and - most importantly - affordable entertainment. These gigs, gatherings, fairs and events have been happening all the while but in the harsh light of recession they seem all the more appealing.

Instead of worrying about not having enough money to get pissed on West Street and buy tickets to the next identikit gig at McCademy, why not try going to one of the week's many independent events?

The Grapes, The Stockroom, The Harley, Shakespeare, The Lescar, Penelope's and DQ all have great regular live music and DJ events on that cost between £3 - £5. The Green Room, Bungalows and Bears, Dulo, The Forum and The Bowery and many others offer free live events, saving you the door tax to spend on drinks.

The quality and diversity in Sheffield's DIY music scene is phenomenal and most of it comes for the price of a beer. Personally, I'm quite happy to leave corporate industry out in the cold if all the outsiders, undergrounders and do-it-yourselfers can create a little warmth of their own.

REG REGLER.

SOUNDHECK.

THIRSTY EAR.

7TH FEBRUARY@
THE HARLEY.

THIRSTY EAR IS A COLLECTIVE OF DJs AND PROMOTERS WHO HAVE COMMENDABLY FILLED A NICHE IN SHEFFIELD'S MUSIC SCENE OVER THE PAST MONTHS, BRINGING BRILLIANT YET UNDER-RATED HIP HOP, REGGAE, FUNK AND DUBSTEP ACTS TO THE CITY WHO YOU'D BE UNLIKELY TO CATCH AT BIGGER EVENTS.

Past highlights have included Boca 45 and DJ Woody, so it was with hopeful anticipation that Now Then braved the snowy walk to the Harley for the latest installment. We were not disappointed.

Hosted by Sequoia Soundsystem (for the heathen amongst you one of the finest sounds in this fair city), our hearts literally lifted to the music before we even entered the venue thanks to the mighty grumble of the beast inside.

Sequoia's selectas warmed things up nicely with a mix of dubtronica, hip hop and, naturally, dubstep. Special mention must go to Baba G, who answered a crowd baying for bass with a killer set of tightly-mixed dancefloor pleasers.

So, to Chimp. The big man hails from Manchester but his selections were well catered to the Sheffield ear, combining intelligent electric twiddling with HUGE tongue-in-cheek basslines. A wall of noise spread through the room, bringing familiar gawping grins to faces all round. Aside from a few too many rewinds, this exemplified what a dubstep set should be about. A sly diversion into jungle for the last 30 minutes gave a welcome change of tempo for legs getting tired of all the required bouncing. Smashin' stuff.

Don't miss out on next month's event, where the Thirsty Ears residents will be bringing the pressure themselves.

BEN DOREY.

DARK CRYSTAL, TUESDAY CLUB& WEE BIT MEAN.

@PLUG,UNI&DQ.
6TH,17TH&19TH
FEBRUARY.

EAGERLY ANTICIPATING ANOTHER WORLD CLASS 140BPM AFFAIR IN THE FORM OF JOKER, KODE 9 AND PLASTICIAN AT TUESDAY CLUB. HAVING ALMOST RECOVERED FROM THE MASSIVE PARTY THAT WAS THE DARK CRYSTAL ROOM AT DETONATE FEATURING DJ OF THE YEAR CHEF. WITH JUST ENOUGH ENERGY RESERVED AT HOME TO ENSURE ATTENDANCE AT WEE BIT MEAN'S LEFT-THINKING BASS-DRIVEN EVENT FEATURING LUKE ENVOY AND PANGAEA.

Amazing vibe in Sheffield for all things bass-driven at the moment and recently announced line-ups leave little to be desired. Dark Crystal at the Hospitality Detonate featured the R8 Records family, myself and headliner DJ Chef, who more than stood up to the challenge. Huge Benga dubs and aggressive mixing ensured no one stood still. Unfortunately the filter on the mixer didn't make it through the encounter. As always R8 Records crew hosted the party with style, with some really exciting dubs being played. Watch out for Rogue State's 'Text From U'. Unbelievable.

Onto Tuesday and Kode 9 opened the proceedings with no less than you would expect from the head honcho of the label that has released Burial and Zomby.

Plastician came with his usual brand of bass weight and tight mixing ability which kept the dancefloor lively throughout. Joker finished proceedings with his knife-sharp drum machine beats and saw-wave mayhem. Although not the tightest beat-matching in places, sneak previews of some forthcoming Kapsize and Hench releases more than made up for it.

With my ears just recovering from Tuesday immediately, Sheffield was greeted with Pangaea and Luke Envoy, both of whom demonstrated themselves to be adept at finding an individual sound. Highlights include forthcoming Headhunter and Ramadanman cuts.

Hudson Mohawke, Rustie, Breakage all coming to town in the next few weeks. Get involved.

JACK OPUS.

SULPHATE 004.

30TH JANUARY.
@RED ROOM.

SULPHATE, ONE OF SHEFFIELD'S BEST NEW NIGHTS, HAVE HAD GREAT SUCCESS SHOWCASING A WIDE VARIETY OF ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC - A BRAVE SET UP IN AN INCREASINGLY COMMERCIALY ORIENTATED BUSINESS.

Though built with a solid backbone of techno, everything from house to breakcore has been exhibited, and January was the turn of old skool. Altern-8 have been spreading sound across the country for the best part of 25 years now, having played at many of the first mass free party events in the mid-to-late eighties. Originally playing acid, they were amongst the first to develop the hardcore breakbeat sounds that went on to inspire countless dance acts, from the nascent jungle of Rude Boy Keith to The Prodigy.

On the night in question they played the last set like true legends, determinately sticking to vinyl and selecting tunes which sounded like you'd heard them before but which you realised you never had. It is a hard feat to pull tunes that are as old as many clubgoers out of your record bag and still play a set that sounds fresh, but one that Altern-8 managed with ease. Adding their standard DJ attire of chemical warfare uniforms to the equation helped make a memorable and unique night out that was still buzzing at closing time.

BEN DOREY.

LISTEN.

18TH FEBRUARY.
@GREEN ROOM.

FOR THE PAST YEAR ON A WEDNESDAY NIGHT, IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE TO WATCH FREE LIVE ACOUSTIC MUSIC AT ONE OF THE CITY'S OLDEST BUT PERHAPS LESSER-KNOWN MUSIC VENUES.

Situated opposite Devonshire Green, The Green Room has played host to Sheffield's finest homegrown talent and Opus 'Listen' pays homage to exactly that, providing the punters with a fantastic range of singer-songwriters, bands and the occasional spoken word poet.

Tonight's event featured a host of folk musicians. First up came a Sheffield new comer, Lindy, who very shyly declined to offer her surname but stunned all with her tremendous voice, reminiscent of Joni Mitchell. Next up was Opus poet James Lock, whose rambling introductions to his short witty poems had most in stitches - a great interlude to the music.

Carl Woodford is a musician who has been plying his trade with great success. Tonight he showed why, delivering a set of prog-inspired folk, his exquisite finger style guitar playing silencing the venue.

The Tom Stuckey Band have been hit or miss entity for some time but on this occasion, bolstered no doubt by some fantastic fiddle work, their mix of loose, Dylanesque folk worked wonderfully.

Not bad for not a penny - pop down next Wednesday.

JOHN SWIFT.

7BT E.P. LAUNCH.

14TH FEBRUARY.
@THE HARLEY.

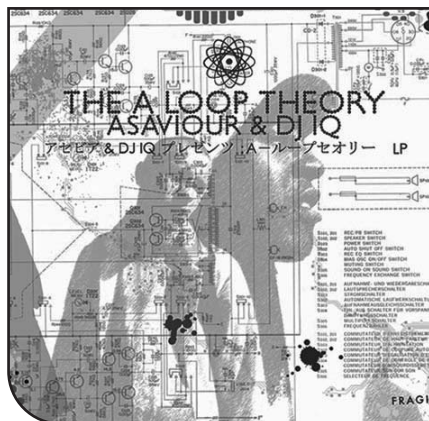
THE HARLEY IS RAMMED. I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN IT THIS BUSY BEFORE, AND AS THE SWEAT DRIPS DOWN FROM MY EARLOBES ALL I CAN DO IS SQUIRM GENTLY AND HOPE THAT PEOPLE MUCH SHORTER THAN ME DON'T LOOK TO THE ROOF THINKING THERE MIGHT BE A LEAK.

First up - Kill the Captains. Been working hard in Sheffield for a few years now. The sound is always technical and heartfelt. Previously I would have said Sonic Youth meets Weezer - now mix that in with At the Drive-In. This lot are ace. Book 'em. Watch 'em develop.

The Legend of the 7 Black Tentacles are also brilliant. Each member brings something unique to the phrase 'stage presence'. Heads up to bassist Chris Mercer, who has Rage Against The Machine imbibed through a chemical drip into his soul. The range of songs and overall concept is excellent, the new guest vocalist Sarah Morrey is excellent, Vex rapping - again excellent. Violin and Cello, screeching into your heart. Excellent. 90 EPs sold. Excellent.

JAMES LOCK.

SOUNDCHECK.



ASAVIOUR.

THE A LOOP THEORY.

SAVING-GRACE.CO.UK.

APRIL WILL SEE THE RELEASE OF THE A LOOP THEORY, A COLLABORATION BETWEEN DMC CHAMPION DJ IQ AND HUDDERSFIELD'S OWN ASAVIOUR. EXPECTATIONS ARE EXTREMELY HIGH; THE PRESS RELEASE STATES: "THE A LOOP THEORY IS A HUGE LEAP FORWARD MUSICALLY AND LYRICALLY, ANOTHER BENCHMARK HAS BEEN SET, THE ENVELOPE HAS BEEN PUSHED." SO DOES THE RECORD STAND UP TO SUCH HIGH PRAISE? WELL, NOT EXACTLY.

There are some brilliant songs on here and an impressive list of guests - Kashmere, Sir Smurf Lil, Kyza, Pride, TB, Dubbledge, Graziella, Thabo, Jehst and Verb T. However, as with any album which consciously attempts to push musical boundaries, some elements are bound to fall flat. 'Uber Groovement' and 'Golden' are two tracks that suffer as a result of having vocals that feel incongruous to the beats. In the latter, the metronomic singing falls into the same rhythm as Asaviour's verse and so fails to create an emotional counterpoint to his lyrics.

There are, however, several gems amongst the tracklisting. 'No Days Off' has the potential to be a massive club banger with its familiar combination of big bass, swaggering lyrics and a catchy hook. 'Hustle & Hope' is a brilliant example of the passion that is alive and well within the UK hip hop scene, a stripped down beat and four emcees that each bring a distinctive style to the mic. 'Gatheround' again reunites Asaviour and Jehst to produce something of a predictably high quality.

You can catch DJ IQ & Asaviour for free on March 25th at the album launch party at Verve, Huddersfield, or else at Huddstock in April.

MARC JEROME.



VARIOUS ARTISTS.

ACROPLANE V/A 02.

ACROPLANE.ORG.

THE SECOND COMPILATION FROM IRISH NETLABEL ACROPLANE FEATURES 23 TUNES THAT SPAN AN HOUR AND 45 MINUTES - NOT A MISSION FOR THE FAINTHEARTED BUT CERTAINLY ONE THAT HAS ITS REWARDS.

Acroplane has been freely distributing its releases for almost three years and is now putting out an average of one every two weeks. Starting out as purely an Irish thing, it soon spread to involve international artists of an impressively high standard. Release number 41 is no exception.

The real strength of this album lies in its sheer variety. There's strange and twisted dubstep in the form of wAgAwAgA, Filaria and Mothboy, acid courtesy of Space Dimension Controller, electronica from RL/VL and Koen Park, ambient by Elite Barbarian, techno, dub, breakbeat...the list goes on.

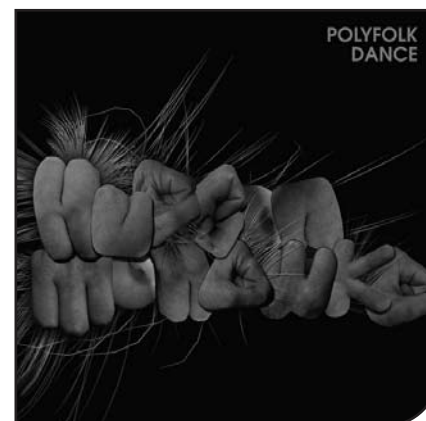
Among the best artists on Acroplane V/A 02 is wAgAwAgA, one of the biggest up-and-coming names in netlabel dubstep. 'Cloudchop' features a glitchy reggae backbone and a choice sample from the Stanley Kubrick classic Dr Strangelove. Check out his full-length LP (acp035) for some unusual genre blends.

Another strong track is Subeena's 'Perception', which sounds like a more pranged out version of 2562 with its combination of deep bass, 2-step bongo lines and wailing vocals. 'Theia' by VERTICAL67 is another curious beauty that sounds like acid and dubstep spliced together.

Don't be put off if you don't recognise any of these artists' names - be excited that there is a whole wealth of free music just waiting to be explored. Acroplane is as good a place as any to start.

Download Acroplane V/A 02 for free from acroplane.org.

SAM WALBY.



HUDSON MOHAWKE.

POLYFOLK DANCE.

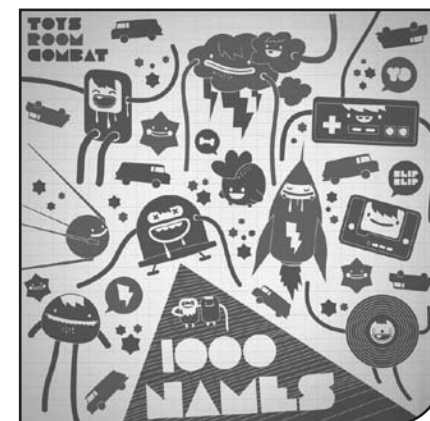
MYSPACE.COM/HUDSONMO

IF THE BIZARRE COINAGE 'EMOTRONIC' ON HUDSON MOHAWKE'S MYSPACE HAS PREVENTED YOU NETSLAVES FROM INVESTIGATING THIS GLASWEGIAN PRODUCERS MUSIC THEN I URGE YOU TO LOOK AGAIN, BECAUSE POLYFOLK DANCE IS PROBABLY THE BEST DOWNTempo EP WARP HAVE RELEASED SINCE FLYING LOTUS' RESET OVER A YEAR AGO. AND FURTHERMORE, FAR FROM BEING IN ANYWAY THE DIRGE THAT 'EMOTRONIC' SUGGESTS, THIS IS A VERY UPLIFTING SET OF TUNES THAT WILL WARM YOUR SOUL DURING THIS EXCEPTIONALLY COLD WINTER.

Consisting of six short tracks, the EP has essentially hip hop origins, but features samples and sounds reminiscent of everything from The Who's rock opera Tommy to plastic soul. Imagine that backed up with wonky beats that wouldn't be out of place in the J Dilla back catalogue and you'll begin to get an idea of how bizarre Hudson Mohawke's sound is.

All of this is worth several listens, but if you're a single track kind of music shopper then the standout tracks are Overnight, which uses a short female vocal sample to incredible effect to produce a heartwarmingly euphoric two minutes before a very (!) abrupt finish, and Yonard which is... indescribable. You're just going to have to trust us on this one.

BEN DOREY.



1000 NAMES.

TOY ROOM COMBAT.

MYSPACE.COM/EKLETIKRECORDS

THE FUTURE OF HIP HOP HAS DAWNED. WITH NODS TO PAST HEROES LIKE J DILLA AND STALWART PIONEERS LIKE MADLIB, A NEW ERA IS EMERGING.

The frontiers have of course always been moving but suddenly it seems we are blessed with a plethora of producers whose vision and touch is nothing short of alchemy. Transforming, assimilating and moulding elements of hip hop, electronica, dubstep and jazz and ultimately producing gold. Flying Lotus, Daybre, Hudson Mohawke, Samiyam, Kidkanevil and now, 1000 Names.

1000 Names are Bulgarian producers, yet another example of the global underground explosion and believe me their music is as cutting edge as anything coming out in either the UK or US. Toy Room Combat offers up all the glitchy space-age production we're growing used to but here their wonky beats, sublimely-cut samples and chopped-up vinyl crackling atmosphere mix down into a surprising yet manageable listen. Stand out moments include 'Roccin On Your Radio' and 'Puppies', both fine examples of the new sound and a pleasure to the harder-listening ear. Go and find this music.

REG REGLER.



MEAN POPPA LEAN.

SMASH AND GRAB E.P.

MYSPACE.COM/MEANPOPPALEAN

MEAN POPPA LEAN ARE A BAND TO WHOM THE WORD 'SUBTLETY' MEANS NOTHING. OFFERING A SOUND THAT COMPLETELY FELL FLAT WHEN THE RED HOT CHILLI PEPPERS ABANDONED FUNK-ROCK IN FAVOUR OF MULTI-MILLION SELLING POP BALLADS, MEAN POPPA LEAN SEEMINGLY LEAVE THEMSELVES WITH A MOUNTAIN TO CLIMB, YET MIRACULOUSLY THEIR SMASH AND GRAB E.P. SEES THEM SPRING UP THIS ROCKY PATH WITH GUILE AND AGILITY.

Mean Poppa Lean deliver the kind of fun you once had in the playground. Some of these tracks are undeniably funny, the band parodying the genre and themselves throughout. Songs like 'We Eat Funk' where lyrics such as "We eat funk for breakfast, we eat funk for tea and if you want to get funky baby, come get funky with me", have the tongue in cheek humour of adolescent schoolboys and whilst this might all sound ridiculous and clichéd there is something unavoidably infectious about this band.

The fact that the whole charade is backed up by some exceptionally tight grooves and licks might well have something to with it but as it stands these guys will definitely be worth checking out live. If their performances are anything like this EP then it's going to be a riot.

JOHN SWIFT.

REVIEWS.

REVIEWS.



ICELANDIC MUSICIAN AND PRODUCER VALGEIR SIGURÐSSON IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST RESPECTED ARTISTS, HAVING COLLABORATED EXTENSIVELY WITH BJÖRK, BONNIE PRINCE BILLY, COCOROSIE AND HOST OF OTHERS. ALSO THE HEAD OF HIS OWN LABEL, BEDROOM COMMUNITY, VALGEIR KEEPS HIMSELF BUSY PRODUCING MOST OF THE MATERIAL AS WELL AS RELEASING HIS OWN MUSIC, INCLUDING HIS INCREDIBLE SOLO DEBUT EKVÍLBÍUM IN 2007.

When we received an invitation to an exclusive show in Manchester and an audience with the man himself we were naturally very excited. However, other natural forces intervened in the form of a severe weather front, leaving Valgeir stranded in London, the show in ruins and a very disappointed (and cold) Now Then journalist in Sheffield. Fortunately, Valgeir offered to spare us some of his precious time to share his views and experiences with our readers.

NT: ICELAND IS A POLARISED COUNTRY WITH A VERY SMALL POPULATION, YET IT HAS PRODUCED SOME OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL AND GROUNDBREAKING MUSIC OF THE PAST 20 YEARS. WHAT IS IT ABOUT ICELAND THAT INSPIRES SUCH INVENTIVE AND EMOTIVE MUSIC?

It's the eternal million króna question. Haha. I'm sure that people would like to hear explanations like "nature, mountains, elves, extreme darkness in wintertime, endless light in the summertime, a small and isolated population" etc, but I really have no idea how to answer this question.

NT: YOU WORKED CLOSELY WITH BJÖRK AS A STUDIO COLLABORATOR ON VESPERTINE AND MEDÚLLA, HOW DID YOUR MUSICAL RELATIONSHIP COME ABOUT?

Björk had just moved back to Iceland and needed an engineer and programmer to work with her on the music for *Dancer In The Dark* (Lars von Trier's 2000 film starring Björk). She asked if I was up for doing some stuff and it worked out well for both of us, so we ended up working together for many years.

NT: AS A PRODUCER DO YOU PICK THE ARTISTS YOU WANT TO WORK WITH?

Generally speaking I pick them as much as they pick me. First contact might come from either side or a third party but there has got to be a mutual wish to work together.

NT: DO YOU THINK THAT THE CURRENT ECONOMIC DOWNTURN WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON THE MUSIC INDUSTRY AND IF SO WHAT DO YOU THINK CAN BE DONE TO AVOID IT?

It seems to me that the music industry has always been in a free fall so to speak, and maybe that is just the only way to keep it healthy. It somehow finds new ways to survive because at the end of the day it is all about the music and people need music. The artists are happy that there is demand for their talent and their work. There seems to be more demand and more need than ever. I guess the "industry" helps monetize this demand. No one would really care if the music industry disappeared - and I'm not saying that it will - but the world would be sad if music disappeared.

NT: WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO MAKE MUSIC?

It's just some kind of a need. I can't really explain it as a general thing but it can come from different things at different times. I need a particular headspace as well as physical space to write music.

NT: IS THERE ANYTHING YOU PARTICULARLY DISLIKE ABOUT THE MUSIC INDUSTRY?

I've sometimes said that one of the great things about being in Iceland is that there is no real music industry there - it's just too small. But I'm often surprised at the lack of imagination. Occasionally I get asked to produce someone who wants to sound, act and behave as close as possible to some of my collaborators past or present. Need I say more?

NT: EKVÍLBÍUM COMBINES ELEMENTS OF ELECTRONIC AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC. WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE TOOLS FOR MAKING MUSIC WITH - THE TRADITIONAL ACOUSTIC ONES OR THE MODERN ELECTRONICS?

I use the tools that I am comfortable with. Through my work in recording studios over the past 2 decades I have become very good at manipulating recorded sounds and I'm far better at using technology to create music than I am playing any instrument. It's a privilege to be able to have nearly every imaginable technology at your fingertips, but having too much choice can also sometimes be dangerous, so it's important to have good filters. I'm most naturally drawn to organic sounds and ones that are mechanically produced - that is perhaps why I choose to work a lot with acoustic instruments. But I do get frustrated with them too so I love being able to manipulate, process, layer and mess up the source material. I just want to create new textures to work with. I find that very exciting and inspirational.

NT: WHO ARE YOUR FAVOURITE ARTISTS AT THE MOMENT?

Check out Morton Feldman's *Rothko Chapel* or David Lang's *The Passing Measures*. Tehillim by Steve Reich is also kick-ass - a piece written nearly 30 years ago that still sounds more fresh than anything on the Top 40 today. For new music you should listen to everything on the Bedroom Community label, of course!

NT: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU OFFER TO YOUNG MUSICIANS AND PRODUCERS TRYING TO MAKE THEIR WAY IN THE WORLD?

Realise that it's hard work so be ready to work hard!

NT: WHAT IS NEXT FOR VALGEIR SIGURÐSSON IN 2009?

Several projects for Bedroom Community. I just finished mixing a new album with Ben Frost and I'm producing albums for Samamidon and Icelandic composer Daniel Bjarnason, who is the latest addition to the label. I'm producing The Magic Numbers' new album. I'm working on 2 writing projects at the moment - music for an Icelandic film called *Dreamland* as well as a piece I am co-writing with Nico Muhly for an installation at The Guggenheim museum in New York. Then I will be doing some more touring in May and October, so hopefully I will be able to come to the UK this time around - if it's not snowing!

bedroomcommunity.net

myspace.com/valgeirs

REG REGLER.
speaking to
VALGEIR SIGURÐSSON.

VALGEIR SIGURÐSSON.

ICELAND'S PREMIER PRODUCER EXTRAORDINAIRE CHATS TO NOW THEN.

PAGE FORTY-ONE.

SULPHATE

SULPHATE IS A NEW ADDITION TO SHEFFIELD'S CLUBBING LANDSCAPE BUT HAS BEEN MAKING QUITE A NAME FOR ITSELF WITH A SUCCESSION OF EXCITING LINE-UPS.

NOW THEN CAUGHT UP WITH ALEX SZABO-HASLAM, ONE OF THE NIGHT'S FOUNDERS, FOR A CHAT ABOUT PAST EVENTS AND WHAT LIES AHEAD...

NT: WHAT INSPIRED YOU LOT TO START WHAT IS BASICALLY THE ONLY REGULAR LEFTFIELD ELECTRONIC MUSIC NIGHT IN SHEFFIELD AND HOW DID IT GO FROM IDEA TO REALITY?

I suppose my inspiration came from years of digesting releases from Rephlex, Planet Mu, Sublight, DHR, Tigerbeat and early Warp. Having just finished helping run Headcharge, there was an urge to get involved with an event more up my street. A few late-night discussions with my good friend Simon and the seed had been planted. The trouble is neither of us are DJs, though we had a clear idea of what we wanted. I'd met Matt and Ian when they were running Sputnik, and knew they were wicked DJs who could not only play the music but also bring something different in terms of how Sulphate might evolve.

NT: YOU TOOK A GAMBLE BY BOOKING BIG ACTS FOR THE FIRST TWO EVENTS - DJ REPHLEX AND SURGEON. ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE RESPONSE?

Not only have we had well up-for-it crowds, but support from the venue too. We couldn't ask for much more really. What I like about Sulphate the most is the variation; you're never going to get six hours of solid techno at our night. Nothing galls me more than paying to see a headliner and finding the rest of the line-up is playing an almost identical set. There were a few raised eyebrows when we booked Distorted Panda to follow Surgeon's set but for me, I need diversity and the unexpected to keep me interested. I think our crowd has enjoyed that aspect and the response so far has been really positive.

SULPHATE.

NT: YOU RECENTLY PUT ON A FREE NIGHT. ANY SIMILAR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

It's something we're all keen on doing and I can see it becoming something we do regularly. Our next free party is this month with Sheffield Bleep and David from Room 303.

NT: YOU MENTION YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH HEADCHARGE, WHO USED TO LINK UP WITH OTHER PROMOTERS LIKE DUBCENTRAL AND DARK CRYSTAL. IS THERE A POSSIBILITY OF SULPHATE DOING ANYTHING SIMILAR?

Linking up with another promoter would be interesting. I admire what Tinnitus, C90 and Room 303 are up to. I think what has stopped small promoters running 'versus' events together in the past is a lack of suitable small venues with enough rooms. My opinion is you really need two rooms to allow each promoter a full evening to show what they're about, and any promoter will tell you there's a lack of those in Sheffield. We've discussed the possibility of larger, one-off events in the future.

NT: WHEN EVERYONE ELSE WAS LISTENING TO PUNK, CABARET VOLTAIRE WERE BEING INSPIRED BY KRAFTWERK AND NEU! DO YOU THINK SHEFFIELD IS MORE RECEPTIVE TO EXPERIMENTAL SOUNDS THAN OTHER PLACES?

I'm cagey about the word 'experimental'. Experimental, to me, is creating something nobody else is doing. Quite often it's just a word that self-indulgent musicians like to label themselves with. Experimental, electronica, breakbeat... often the meaning is blurred. Gatecrasher print 'punk', 'glitch' and 'electronica' on their flyers these days.

I'm not sure why this city has nurtured the things it has. But I can say, from a creative perspective at least, Sheffield is different to anywhere else. That's why I've stayed so long. Some of the art, design and music from here is unique - from Warp to Audiobulb, Cabaret Voltaire to SND. Namedropping musicians and labels reads like the contents in a 'Who's Who' guide to electronic music.

It's good to know there are still promoters around trying to do something a bit different, that don't hand out glo-sticks on the door and play chart classics or electro-house. Or donk.

NT: ANY LINE-UP TEASERS?

We're putting on a free party with Sheffield Bleep, Monatomic and Mumblis this month, Jerome Hill and Chevron in April, Neil Landstrumm in June and more to be confirmed. If any local DJs want to play, get in touch on Facebook and we'll see what we can do. Sometimes, the DJs you've never heard of are better than the ones you have.

BEN DOREY.

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SATURDAY - Saturday Mix Up With DJ Double A Ron Playing Pop, Indie, Motown, Electro Pop & R&B
SUNDAY - Sky Sports & Karaoke



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE: UPCOMING
6th March - Tarka Dawn
20th March - The Skinks
3rd April - Tom Hingley (Inspirational Carpets)

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Fosters£2.09
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3 Becks Or VK£5.00
Dble. Spirit & Mixer £2.69

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TILL 9PM ALL WEEK!**

All Main Meals £1.99
[Including Fish & Chips, Burgers, Pies, Sausage & Mash Etc..]
All Sandwiches £1.49
[Including Side Salad]
Sunday Roast £4.99 or 2 for £9.00

BATTLE OF THE BANDS COMP 2009
On Saturday May 30th 2009 The Pomona will be hosting a Battle Of The Bands competition. It will run over 6 weeks with 5 bands per week in the heats and will culminate in the showdown finale on Saturday July 11th. The winners will bag themselves £1000 worth of studio time with a top professional producer & chief support slot at a main venue in Sheffield! See myspace.com/pomonaclub for details.



The STOCK ROOM

MARCH

Mon 2nd UNeedSubtitles
Tues 3rd Frank In Sense / Sam Browse / Zeds Dead
Thurs 5th Half A Handshake Presents: Horse Feather & Tom Hanson
Fri 6th Not Shy Of The DIY: Off With Their Heads / The Dauntless Elite / Four Letter Word / Cop Out / Calvinball
Sat 7th Remote Control Promotions
Sun 8th Panda Pop with The Muscle Club / Little Glitches & The Crookes
Mon 9th Soundclash The Culprits vs. North Of Watford with Dead Delta & The Exhibition
Wed 11th Musica Provea: The Fates / Pockets Filled With Matches / No Ghost
Thurs 12th Aviators & Euphoria Audio
Fri 13th LowDrop with Cab Shaker / The Lost Rites & Tom Attah
Sat 14th A Night Down At the Red Bricks with Denis Jones / Little Glitches / Ambrose Tompkins
Sun 15th Team Tall presents Hitcher / Inches From The Mainland / Khuda
Mon 16th The Regulars / Oblong and the lovely Dead Doll's DJ's
Wed 18th Children For Breakfast
Fri 20th Sticky Collective ELECTRONICA SPECIAL
Sat 21st Goth Night
Mon 23rd Skinks / Marc Miran / Georgia
Tues 24th Duplex Blues
Thurs Hyper Synper / 7 Hills
Fri 27th C90 / Rough Disko#
Sat 28th Riddimtion
Sun 29th March: Not Shy of DIY: Attack Vipers!, Beasts, Skiplickers
Mon 30th March: Square Indie: Saga / North of Watford / White Circus Fever

**THE STOCKROOM
LEADMILL ROAD
SHEFFIELD
0114 2767292**



TIMEWARP. 361 ABBEYDALE ROAD.

Among the many surprises on Abbeydale Road is Timewarp. From the outside it may be mistaken for a shop selling all the latest trends (made in Taiwan) to kit out your home. From mirrors, to clocks, tea sets and furniture, this shop's got it all.

The difference is, however, that the collections have come straight from the era of corduroy flares and psychedelic print curtains. Timewarp sells the very best of retro, 20th century antiques.

Owner Joe Lachowicz has run the shop for six years now and his assortment of Vera Pantan, Hans Vegner and Ercol reflect the very best of functional, Bauhaus design without the price tag that many high street replicas carry. After realising his parents had good taste after all, it has become a passion for Joe - only a short leap from his previous career as a volleyball coach.

It's refreshing to hear the tales behind the collectables on sale instead of the robotic drone we are used to hearing on our usual shopping trips. His campaign for innovation and diversity is by no means elitist. Considering himself a bit of a modernist, he believes in good design - simple and functional. "I don't like things that are inaccessible, I'm quite democratic."

His pieces have stood the test of time as they look as innovative and modern as they ever did. Perfect if you're looking for a bargain that carries vintage superiority.

KATIE DUROSE.



THE PAD. 363 ABBEYDALE ROAD.

"I like clothes that have a story behind them," any vintage lover will tell you. The amazing thing about The Pad is that you finally get to meet 'the story' because she is owner Carol Taylor.

As she rummages through the rack of clothes at the back of her vintage furniture shop, Carol explains the excellent quality of fabric used to make clothes from her teenage years in the 1960s and 1970s, as well as bought-in garments from other decades. Fabric is another passion found in The Pad. All with colourful quirky designs, mostly from Carol's cupboard at home.

"I started collecting fabric in the 1970s. I have sold mountains of it and still I have a room at home full of it."

With so much enthusiasm for vintage clothes, accessories and fabrics, it's easy to forget that The Pad is largely a vintage furniture and decoration shop. They specialise in 1960s and 1970s décor, with a few older and newer pieces.

Having worked in the antiques market before opening the shop six years ago, Carol knows what looks quality and fashionable. She is also dedicated when it comes to finding stock. She finds most of the décor in Europe, going there three times a year in a campervan, list in hand, hunting for the shop and customer requests.

Apart from the shopkeeper having specialist knowledge, the best thing about The Pad is the honest pricing. "I do not go on book value prices. I go on how much I spent on it."

For decoration, inspiration or intrigue, The Pad is well worth a visit.

HELEN BARNETT.

Corporation

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THU 26TH FEB - £7 ADV - 7PM *#
MY PASSION

+ FREEHOLD
+ HERE'S TO TRAGEDY

FRI 6TH MAR - £8 ADV - 7PM *#

**PROTEST
THE HERO**

+ THE CHARIOT
+ THE HUMAN ABSTRACT

SUN 8TH MAR - £12 ADV - 7PM *
SWORN ENEMY

+ FREYA
+ LIONHEART
+ CDC

MON 9TH MAR - £10 ADV - 7PM *#

**GOLDIE
LOOKIN' CHAIN**

+ TRIP

THU 12TH MAR - £8 ADV - 7PM *

**THE OCEAN /
BURST**

+ BISON BC
+ MEDEIA

FRI 13TH MAR - £10 ADV - 7PM *#

GOJIRA

+ THE EYES OF A TRAITOR
+ PILGRIMZ

TUE 17TH MAR - £5 ADV - 7PM *

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McPHERSON**

(SOLO ACOUSTIC SHOW)
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FRI 20TH MAR - £13 ADV - 7PM *#

H.E.A.T.

+ SUPPORT
SAT 21ST MAR - £10 ADV - 7PM 18+ #

THE BUSINESS

+ GIMP FIST
+ SKYEDGE
+ THE HYENAS

TUE 24TH MAR - £9 ADV - 7PM *

MONO

+ SUPPORT

SUN 29TH MAR - £13 ADV - 7PM *

WEDNESDAY 13

+ GLAMOUR OF THE KILL
+ THE CHELSEA SMILES

MON 30TH MAR - £11 ADV - 7PM *#

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REASONS**

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+ SUPPORT

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+ THE DEFILED

FRI 10TH APR - £11 ADV - 7PM *#

ZEROMANCER

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+ ESSENCE OF MIND

SAT 11TH APR - £8 ADV - 7PM *#

BARONESS

+ SUPPORT

THU 16TH APR - £9 ADV - 7PM *#

IAMX

+ SUPPORT

FRI 17TH APR - £6 ADV - 7PM *#

**NEW YORK
ALCOHOLIC
ANXIETY ATTACK**

+ DEATH BY ROCK N ROLL
+ JOOLZ DENBY (RED SKY COVEN)

WED 22ND APR - £8 ADV - 7PM *#

EVILE

+ WARPAT
+ MUTANT

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24/04 - NIGHTMARE OF YOU
30/04 - IN FLAMES
02/05 - GNR CONSPIRACY
04/05 - MADINA LAKE
07/05 - SAVIOURS
09/05 - DAS ICH / GOTHMINISTER
12/05 - THRASH & BURN TOUR 2009
13/05 - STREET DOGS
18/05 - DUB TRIO
23/05 - COMBICHRIST
23/05 - BREED 77 / SUSPERIA
04/07 - THE LUCHAGORS

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KEEP US POSTED... IF YOU KNOW OF AN UNAPPRECIATED GEM THAT DESERVES OUR TIME AND PAGE SPACE, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.

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TOKYO SOMATO.

SHOWROOM.
BOX OFFICE 0114 2757727
SHOWROOM.ORG.UK



Tokyo Sonata reaches UK cinemas after winning the Certain Regard Jury prize at Cannes in May 2008. Given the length of time since then it is tempting to believe that the distributor knew something that the world's banks and economists didn't, because Toyko Sonata is even more relevant now than it would have seemed almost a year ago.

Opening with an odd interview with his boss, Sasaki, after many years' service to his company, is unable to demonstrate why he should be kept on. Like the Tom Wilkinson character in the The Full Monty, he is unable to face up to the truth and tell his family. Day by day he gets ready for work, leaves home and then loses himself in the city until the time comes to return home.

At home he is the master of the house. His wife is his servant, his sons are alienated from him. The eldest is planning to join the American army, the youngest to learn the piano. Both are banned from doing so, both carry on regardless.

Trading on the demands of Japanese society and the concept of male dignity and honour, the story evolves around the three male members of the family, but the wife and mother has her own worries as she sees her family disintegrate, unaware that her husband is unemployed.

Tokyo Sonata is at times comic and tragic and veers towards the utterly bizarre in the final act before reaching an unexpected and upbeat finale. How many families will be facing a similar trajectory in the coming months?

THE BOWERY.

DEVONSHIRE STREET.
THEBOWERYSHEFFIELD.COM

The Bowery boys continue the good work, bringing their own unique touch to the Devonshire area. Recent additions to the place have included art displays by Mike Latimer (featured in Now Then issue 3) and some epic stencil business upstairs outside Supreme Being done by our very own designer Jones.

The recently re-launched deli menu features a wider variety of salads, sandwiches, wraps, toasties and platters so, whether you want a light snack or something to share, there's plenty of choice for everyone. The salads and platters are proving especially popular, all made with fresh high-quality ingredients that resurrect the old classics like Caesar salad and ploughman's platters from the limp bastardisations that many other bars have seen fit to pass-off as good fresh food.

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?

S1 ARTSPACE.
MILTON STREET, NEXT TO CORP.
18TH - 25TH MARCH.
HAVENTYOUHEARD.ORG

This group of ten local photographers are rather keen on visually exploring shifts in culture, whether those concerns are social or economic, personal or political.

They've decided to put on an exhibition which highlights the ever-changing social landscape through varied visual methods and concepts. All are current photography students at Sheffield Hallam and represent the crème of Sheffield's up-and-coming photographic talent. There'll be diverse styles and techniques so expect a little something for everyone.

Get down to S1 from the 18th onwards and experience something fresh and exciting happening in photography. Check the website for some sneak previews.

DULO.

17 CEMETERY ROAD.
0114 272 8218.

Definitely one of our favourite pubs in Sheffield and also one of earliest and longest supporters of Now Then, it's about time they got another mention. With regular music nights and DJs at the weekend there's always a busy and friendly vibe in Dulo.

During the week it's a relaxed place for a couple of after-work beers, a chilled afternoon off listening to cool tunes and admiring the original artwork and photography gracing its walls.

On the first Thursday of every month, we have a launch night for the new issue so come down and have a listen to some of our writers spinning their favourite tracks and admire the Kid Acne masterpieces that adorn the beer garden and walls of this London Road gem.

THE FORUM.

127 - 129 DEVONSHIRE STREET.
FORUMSHEFFIELD.CO.UK.

The Forum is one of those Sheffield mainstays that almost everyone has visited. Catering for a good range of tastes and moods, the cafe's menu offers a mixture of traditional British and fancy international dishes at affordable prices.

Particularly recommended are soup of the day, Thai fishcakes with rocket salad & crème fraîche, jerk chicken skewers or, if you're feeling less adventurous, a good old burger with extra toppings.

Offering cheap drinks (£2 pints of Becks/Ale, £9 bottles of wine) from 4-9 every day and soon to re-open after a refurbishment project that includes a new stage, the new look Forum is bound to hit Dev Green hard.

CREMORNE.

185 LONDON ROAD.
MYSFACE.COM/THCREMORNE.

Another fantastic pub whose presence on London Road is a relief to anyone bored of the monochrome repetition of high street bars, the Cremorne captures the feel of a traditional pub but with quirks and twists that make it genuinely unique. Early Acne artwork adorns the exterior and the secluded beer garden, whilst the inside maintains that genuine feel of a real pub with comfortable seats, dim lights and decent beer.

They have music most nights ranging from dub to folk and even jazz and bluegrass on Sundays. Regular nights include Riddimtion, whose soundsystem will be blasting out some classic reggae and ragga on the 7th of the month.

Recently they've re-launched their open mic night on Tuesdays from 8-11, so if you play or perform head down and join in.

RECYCLING REVOLUTION.

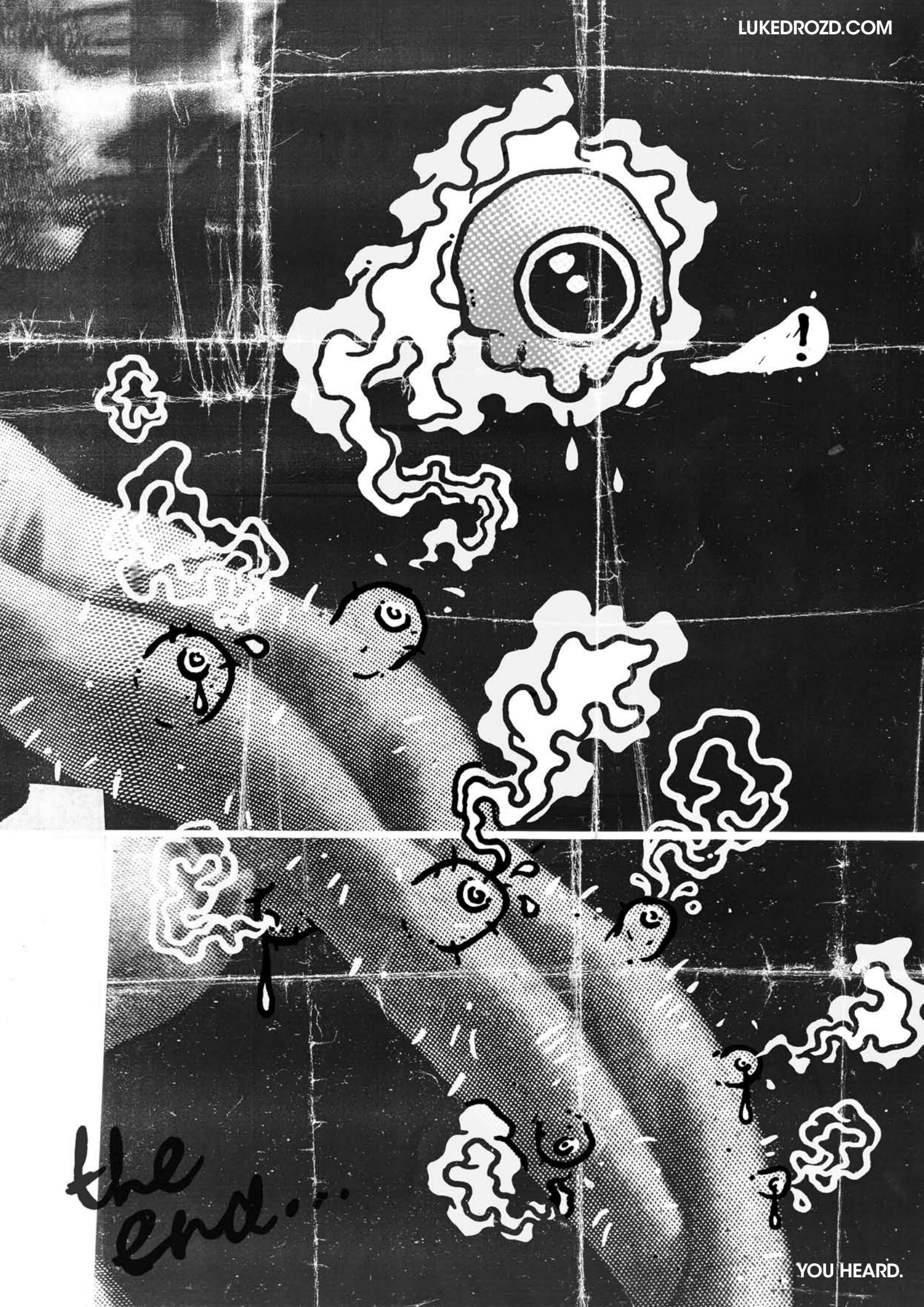
07973 343 458.
INFO@RECYCLINGREVOLUTION.CO.UK

Possibly one of our favourite companies in Sheffield, Recycling Revolution is a small independent business run by Mark McCann which offers a comprehensive recycling and collection service. Let's face it, most of us want to recycle but so often you don't have the time or the transport to deal with it. This is where Recycling Rev steps in. For as little as £12 a month Mark makes a weekly collection of glass, metal and plastics from your house or business. He even provides labelled bins for the different recycling and has recently expanded to start recycling batteries as well.

Recycling Revolution has only been going for a couple of years and has already gained praise among the environmental sector, including 1st place in the Sheffield Telegraph Environment awards.

Join the revolution.

FAVOURITES.



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23. THE OLD SWEET SHOP.

KEY.